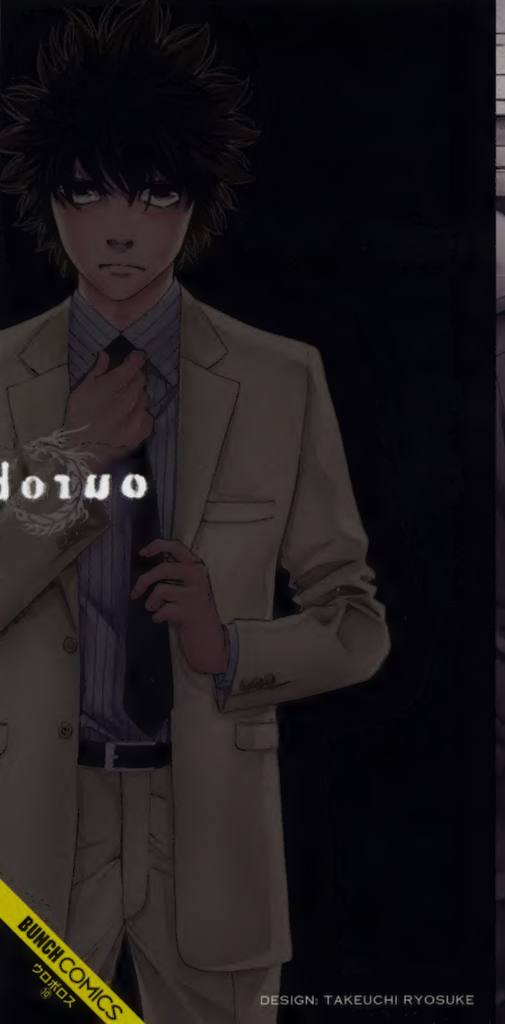
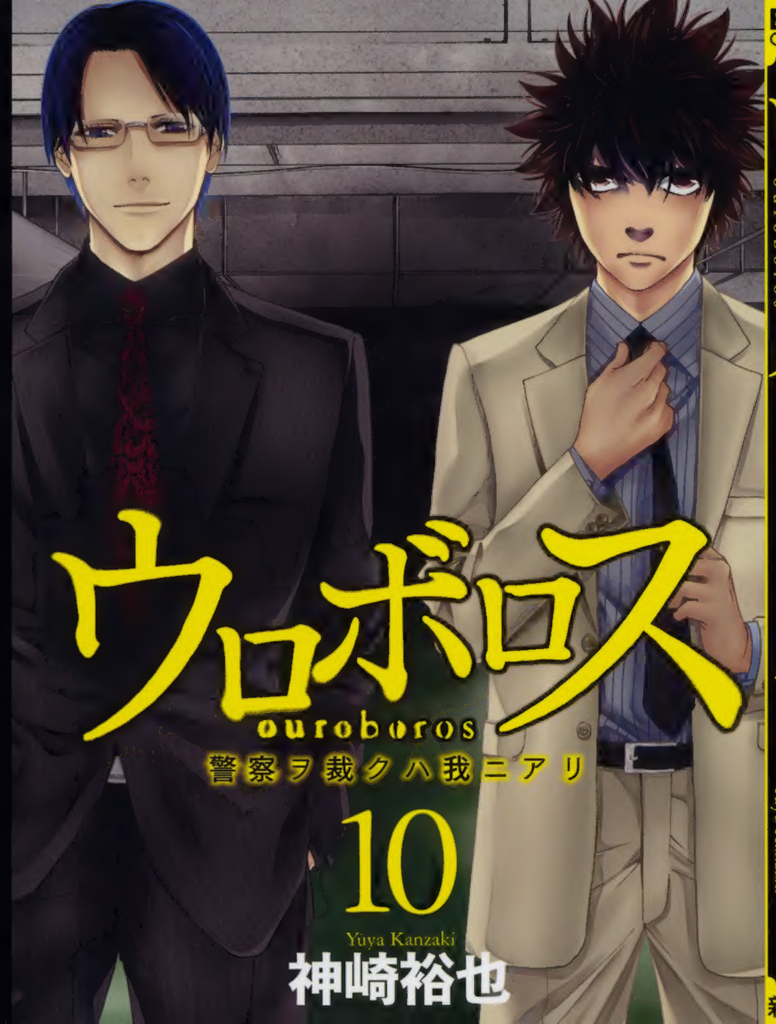


DESIGN: TAKEUCHI RYOSUKE



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警察ヲ裁クハ我ニアリ
10
Yuya Kanzaki
神崎裕也

BUNCH COMICS

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Yuya Kanzaki
新潮社

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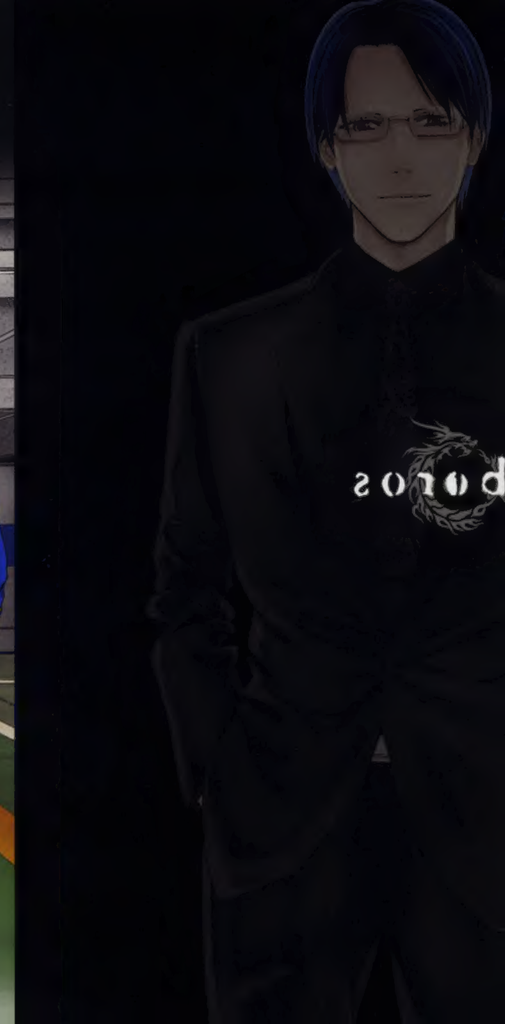
雑誌 47557-37

警視総監狙撃事件から一ヵ月が過ぎたが解決の糸口は掴めないまま、イクオと美月は新たな事件現場へ急行する。イラン人麻薬売人グループの殺害現場で再会したのは、イクオの交番勤務時代の恩人であり、周囲の人望も厚い善波巡査長だった…。



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BUNCH COMICS

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10

神崎裕也
Yūya Kanzaki

新潮社

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Kanzaki

NAME : GOLD WATCH
NO DATA

NAME : OSHITARI KOJI
AFFILIATION: NATIONAL POLICE AGENCY SECURITY BUREAU, SECURITY PLANNING DIVISION (ZERO)
RANK: SUPERINTENDENT

NAME : GANAHA MAMORU
AFFILIATION: NATIONAL POLICE AGENCY SECURITY BUREAU, SECURITY PLANNING DIVISION (ZERO)
RANK: SUPERINTENDENT

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STORY

RYŪZAKI IKUO AND DANNO TATSUYA ARE BURDENED WITH A PAST. WHEN THEY WERE CHILDREN, THEIR MOST BELOVED PERSON IN THE WORLD, YUIKO-SENSEI, WAS MURDERED AND THE CRIME, COVERED UP BY A POLICE OFFICER. FAST FORWARD 15 YEARS.

TO UNCOVER THE SECRET BEHIND THE CASE, AND FERRET OUT THE POLICE OFFICER WHO ORCHESTRATED THE COVER-UP, "GOLD WATCH", IKUO BECAME A DETECTIVE AND TATSUYA TOOK THE WAY OF THE UNDERWORLD.

HAVING BEEN TRANSFERRED TO THE MPD FIRST DIVISION HEADQUARTERS, THE MISFIT DETECTIVE DUO, RYŪZAKI IKUO AND HIBINO MIDUKI, PASS THEIR DAYS DEALING WITH CASES AND PROFESSIONAL CHORES UNDER THE GUIDANCE OF THEIR NEW CHIEFS, INSPECTOR BANDŌ AND SUPERINTENDENT TACHIBANA. MEANWHILE, A DISPUTE BETWEEN THE MPD "SUPERINTENDENT-GENERAL" AND "DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT-GENERAL" FACTIONS CAUSES UNREST IN THE MPD.

IN PARALLEL, THE "TWIN DRAGONS", IKUO AND TATSUYA, CONNECT THE "ZERO" DIVISION OF PUBLIC SAFETY TO "GOLD WATCH" AND GET CLOSER TO THE TRUTH OF HIS IDENTITY AMONG THE UPPER ECHELONS OF THE MPD. THEIR FIGHT ENTERS A NEW, TRYING PHASE!

THE SUPERINTENDENT-GENERAL OF THE MPD, KITAGAWA KIICHIRŌ, IS SNIPED IN BROAD DAYLIGHT. THE SNIPING, COMMITTED IN SPITE OF HIS SECURITY DETAIL, CAUSES THE POLICE TO FALL IN THE ESTIMATION OF THE PEOPLE, AND IN RESPONSE ALL THE POLICE IN THE COUNTRY ARE MOBILISED, ON THE DEPUTY-SUPERINTENDENT GENERAL'S ORDERS, TO FIND THE PERPETRATOR WHO OPPOSED THE CONSTITUTED AUTHORITIES.

THE WORDS "THE CULPRIT IS FROM THE POLICE" HIT A SHOCKED IKUO.

DANNO'S INVESTIGATION CONFIRMS THE EXISTENCE OF BACKDOOR DEALINGS BETWEEN THE TOP BRASS OF THE MPD AND THE YAMASHIRŌ SYNDICATE, WHICH DIVIDES POWER IN KANTŌ WITH THE ABIKO GROUP...

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CAST&STORY

NAME : HIBINO MIDUKI
AFFILIATION: TOKYO MPD CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION BUREAU, FIRST DIVISION
RANK: ASSISTANT INSPECTOR

NAME : DANNO TATSUYA
AFFILIATION: ABIKO CLAN, THIRD BRIGADE, MATSUO GROUP
TITLE: VICE-HEAD

NAME : RYUZAKI IKUO
AFFILIATION: TOKYO MPD CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION BUREAU, FIRST DIVISION-
RANK: SERGEANT

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NAME : HIJIRI YUKITO
AFFILIATION: TOKYO MPD
RANK: SUPERINTENDENT SUPERVISOR
POSITION: DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT GENERAL

NAME : HIBINO KUNIHIKO
AFFILIATION: TOKYO MPD PERSONNEL AND TRAINING BUREAU, INSPECTION OFFICE
RANK: CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT
POSITION: ACTING CHIEF

NAME : BANDO SHIRO
AFFILIATION: TOKYO MPD CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION BUREAU, FIRST DIVISION
RANK: INSPECTOR

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CONTENTS

CHAPTER 72: PATROLLING 005

CHAPTER 73: REJECTION 047

CHAPTER 74: LULL 095

CHAPTER 75: WRIGGLING 141

I AM PATROL OFFICER RYUZAKI IKUO, ASSIGNED AS OF TODAY TO THIS POLICE BOX!! PLEASE TAKE CARE OF ME!
E... E-E-EXCUSE ME!!
ビシッ!!
SFX: stiffen!

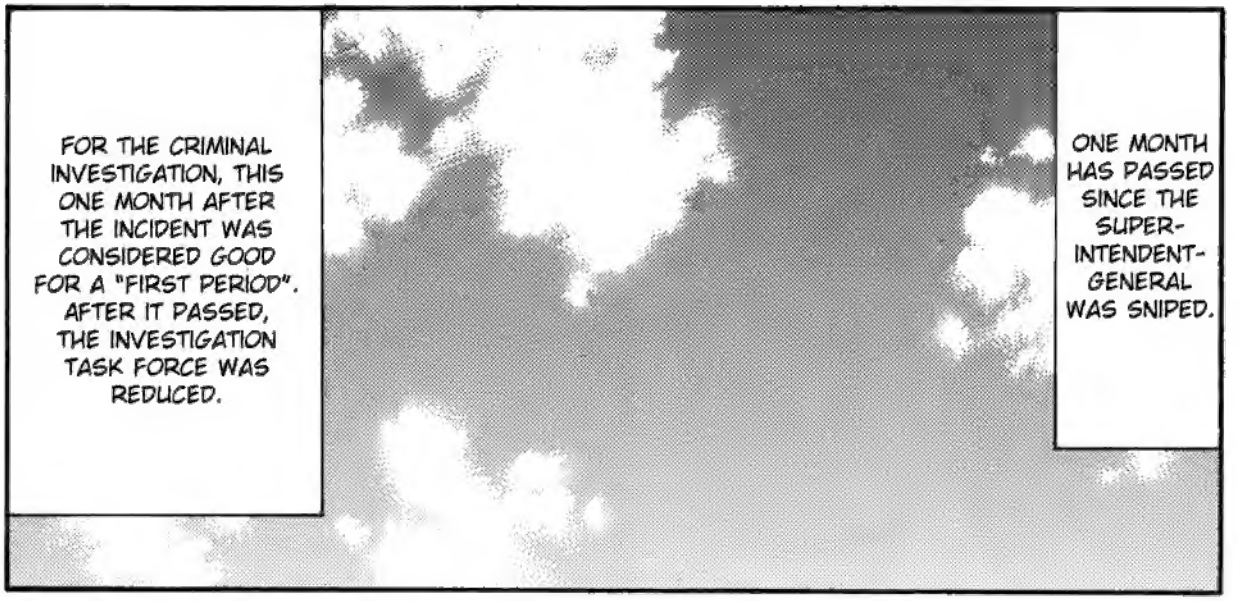
Y... YES... HAHAHA
IN ANY CASE, YOU BEGIN YOUR LIFE AS A POLICEMAN TODAY,
SO, ARE YOU NERVOUS?

HEY, HEY, DON'T BE SO TENSE, ROOKIE.
YOU WILL END UP SCARING AWAY ORDINARY PEOPLE IF YOU BEHAVE LIKE THAT.
I'M SORRY...
AH...

EH?
RYUZAKI... YOU SAID?
... WHY WAS IT?

WHY DID YOU THINK OF BECOMING A POLICE OFFICER?
NO

第73話
CHAPTER 72: PATROLLING


FOR THE CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION, THIS ONE MONTH AFTER THE INCIDENT WAS CONSIDERED GOOD FOR A "FIRST PERIOD". AFTER IT PASSED, THE INVESTIGATION TASK FORCE WAS REDUCED.
ONE MONTH HAS PASSED SINCE THE SUPER-INTENDENT-GENERAL WAS SNIPED.

WHO ON EARTH IS THE CRIMINAL...
... IN THE END, WE WERE UNABLE TO FIND ONE SINGLE CLUE LEADING US TO THE SNIPER, AND THE FIRST PERIOD HAS PASSED...
.....
WHAT DO YOU THINK, RYUZAKI-SAN?

SFX: vroom!
WE FROM THE FIRST DIVISION, 11TH TEAM, TOO, RETURNED TO THE MPD FOR THE TIME BEING AND HAVE BEEN ASSIGNED TO ORDINARY CASES.

TL/N: Almost certainly this "first period" refers to some classification of phases in an investigation, namely the period immediately after the incident when evidence hasn't grown cold yet.

IN THE END, I COULD NOT SHAKE THEM FROM MY HEAD...
THE WORDS OF THAT FORMER KABUKICHO HOST, WHO WAS MURDERING CALL GIRLS, MITSUOMI...

THE CRIMINAL... IS A POLICE OFFICER TOO, AREN'T THEY?
THE SUPER-INTENDENT-GENERAL OR WHATEVER, THE ONE WHO SHOT THE BOSS OF THE POLICE...

THE POLICE!!!
IN THIS WHOLE COUNTRY, THE WORST SCUM ARE YOU!!

IN PRACTICE, THIS MEANS THE WIDELY DISPERSED, DESIGNATED YAKUZA GROUP, THE YAMASHIRO SYNDICATE, IS INVOLVED IN THE SNIPING OF THE SUPER-INTENDENT-GENERAL.
山城
IF WE GO BY MITSUOMI'S STORY, ALL THIS TIME THE POLICE HAVE BEEN PULLING THE STRINGS BEHIND THIS ENTITY...

TL/N: The symbol reads Yamashiro

AND THEN, THAT SAME YAMASHIRO SYNDICATE IS CONNECT-ED TO THE "ZERO" DIVI-SION OF PUBLIC SAFETY.
WHICH IS TO SAY, ULTI-MATELY... THIS SNIPING WAS CARRIED OUT ON IN-STRUCTIONS OF THAT LOT FROM ZERO...

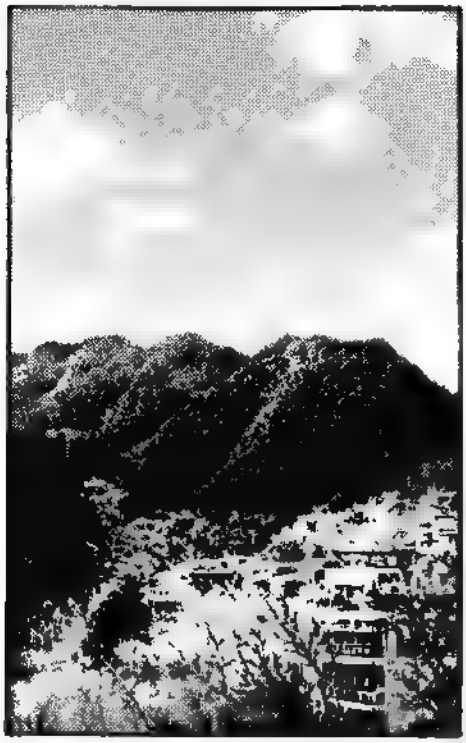
TL/N: This does not imply running officially; Ikuo does not think Gold Watch is necessarily the officer in charge of Zero on paper.

SFX: stare...

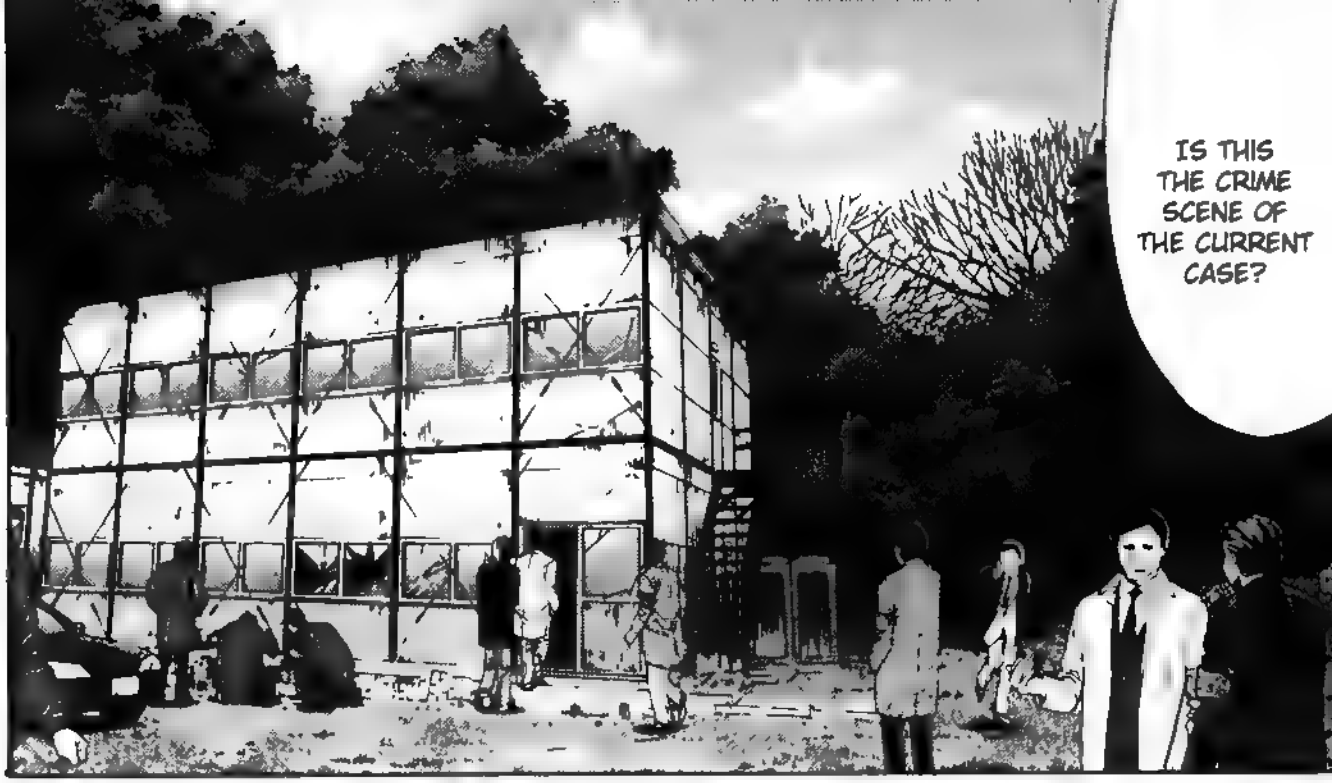
TS/N: Other than the real reason why you became a cop.

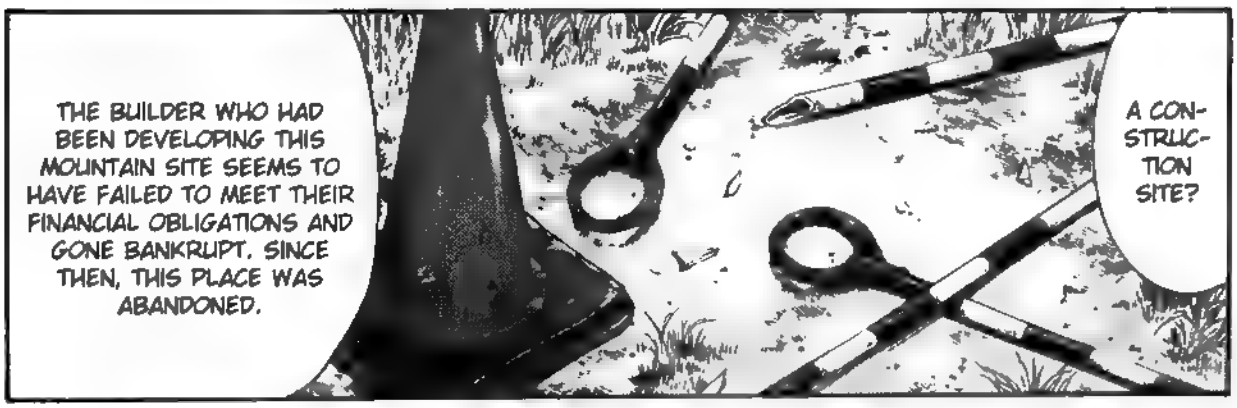
SFX: Jolt!

SFX: vroom!



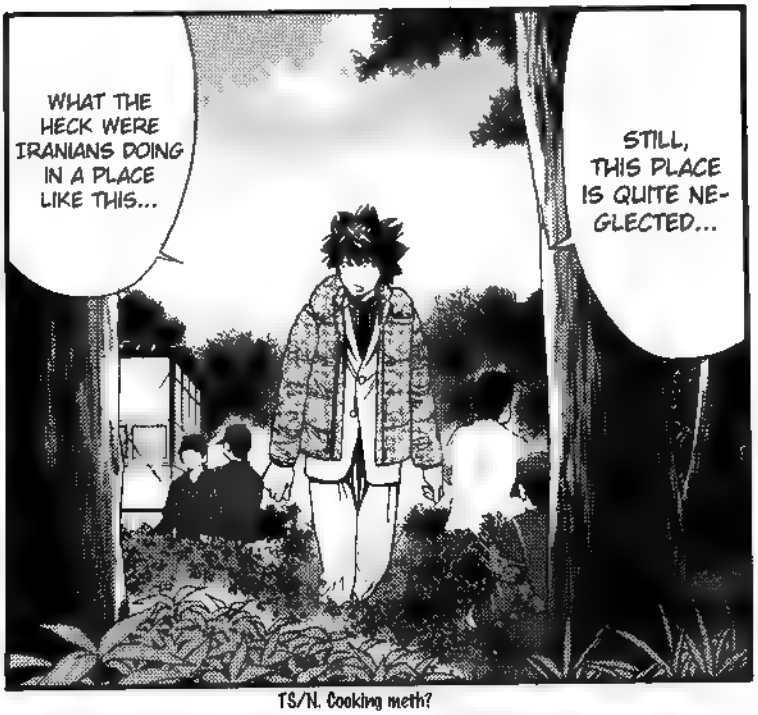
... HIBINO-SAN HAS GOTTEN QUITE SHARP THESE DAYS...
Is this the effect of Superintendent Tachibana's coaching?
!!
HMMMM...
NO HARM IN ASKING, THOUGH.


IS THIS THE CRIME SCENE OF THE CURRENT CASE?

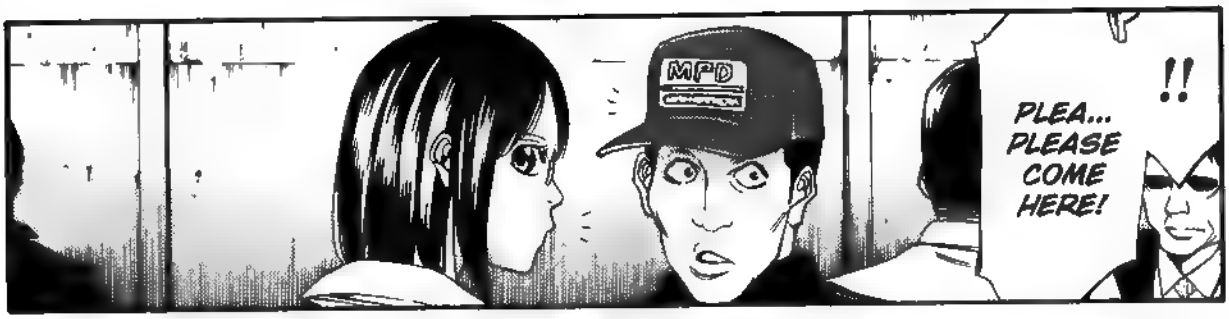

A CONSTRUCTION SITE?
THE BUILDER WHO HAD BEEN DEVELOPING THIS MOUNTAIN SITE SEEMS TO HAVE FAILED TO MEET THEIR FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS AND GONE BANKRUPT. SINCE THEN, THIS PLACE WAS ABANDONED.

I'M JUST GOING TO HAVE A LOOK AROUND THE AREA.
!
RYUZAKI-SAN, PLEASE DON'T MOVE TOO MUCH WHILE FORENSICS HAVEN'T COMPLETED THEIR JOB IN THE CRIME SCENE!

THE MURDER VICTIMS ARE THREE IRANIANS.
THE MURDER WEAPON USED WAS A GUN. AS FOR THE PERPETRATOR, AS OF NOW WE HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO IDENTIFY THEM.



TS/N. Cooking meth?

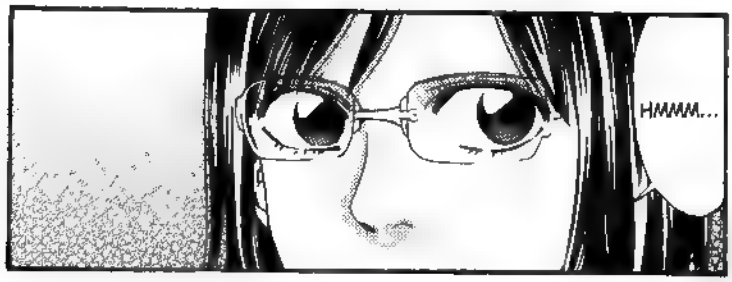


THIS SHOE HAS NO LACE...
HUH?
WE CANNOT DROP IT AFTER BEING UNDER YOUR CARE, ZENBA-SAN!
I'M A MERE HEAD PATROL OFFICER, AREN'T I?
HEY, HEY, DROP THE -SAN AL-READY!
LONG TIME NO SEE, ZEN-BA-SAN!
.....
?
WHAT IS IT, RYU-ZAKI-SAN?

ZE...
ZENBA...
SAN...

HAHA HAHA!
THIS IS GREAT!
SFX. thump!
UGH!!
DON'T BE MODEST! I AM PROUD TO SEE MY JUNIOR OFFICER IN THE FIRST!
DO MY EYES DECEIVE ME, OR YOU ARE WORKING FOR THE CENTRAL OFFICE, RYUZAKI?
AND MORE THAN THAT, YOU ARE ASSIGNED FOR THE FIRST DIVISION ALONG WITH THE VERY BEST!
N... NO, THIS IS STILL JUST A TEMPORARY DISPATCH, BUT...
Y-
YOU SEEM TO BE DOING FINE TOO, ZENBA-SAN...

OKAY, I AM GOING NOW!
ZENBA-SAN, THE UNIT HEAD IS...
!
PLEASE GIVE ME YOUR PHONE NUMBER, RYUZAKI.
I'M NOT LIKE YOU. I STOPPED AT BEING JUST A POLICE BOX CHIEF.
AH, WELL,
DO... DON'T SAY IT LIKE THAT...
SFX: tap!
SERGEANT RYUZAKI IKUO, SIR!
I WANT TO TALK ABOUT OLD TIMES WHILE WE DRINK,
SFX: excited
ぱぁぁ
Y-YES! ANYTIME!

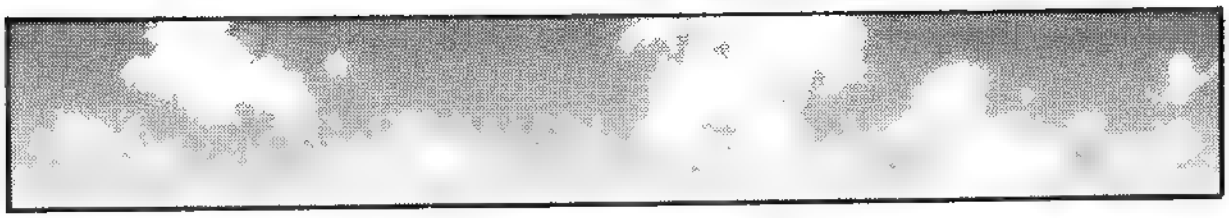


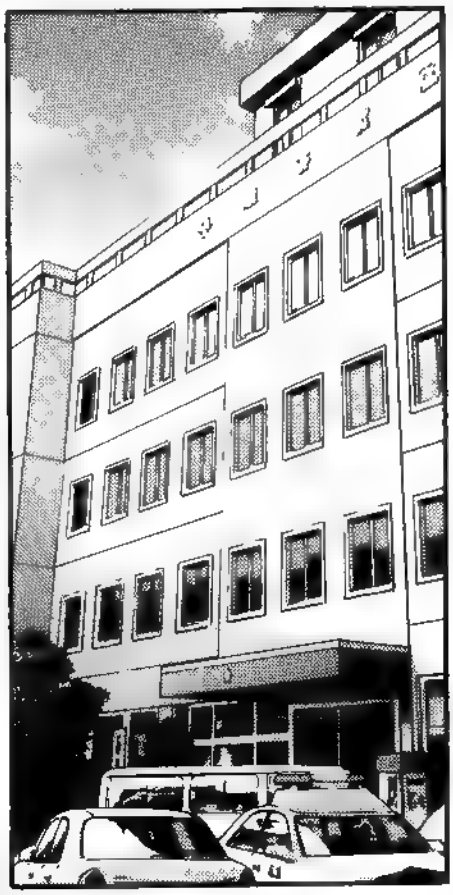
AND ALTHOUGH HE IS AN OLD-TIMER, HE SEEMS TO ENJOY THE ADMIRATION OF THE DETECTIVES TAKING PART IN THE INVESTIGA-TION.
HE DOES SEEM TO BE POPULAR, FOR SURE...

HIS REMAINING IN THE POLICE BOX, WITHOUT A DOUBT, MEANS ZENBA-SAN WANTS TO PROTECT HIS MUNICIPALITY FROM THE CLOSEST PLACE TO THE PEOPLE.
IN FACT, HE HAS ALREADY ACCOMPLISHED ENOUGH TO WARRANT AN ASSIGNMENT TO A POLICE STATION.
YES, IT'S JUST AS YOU SAY.

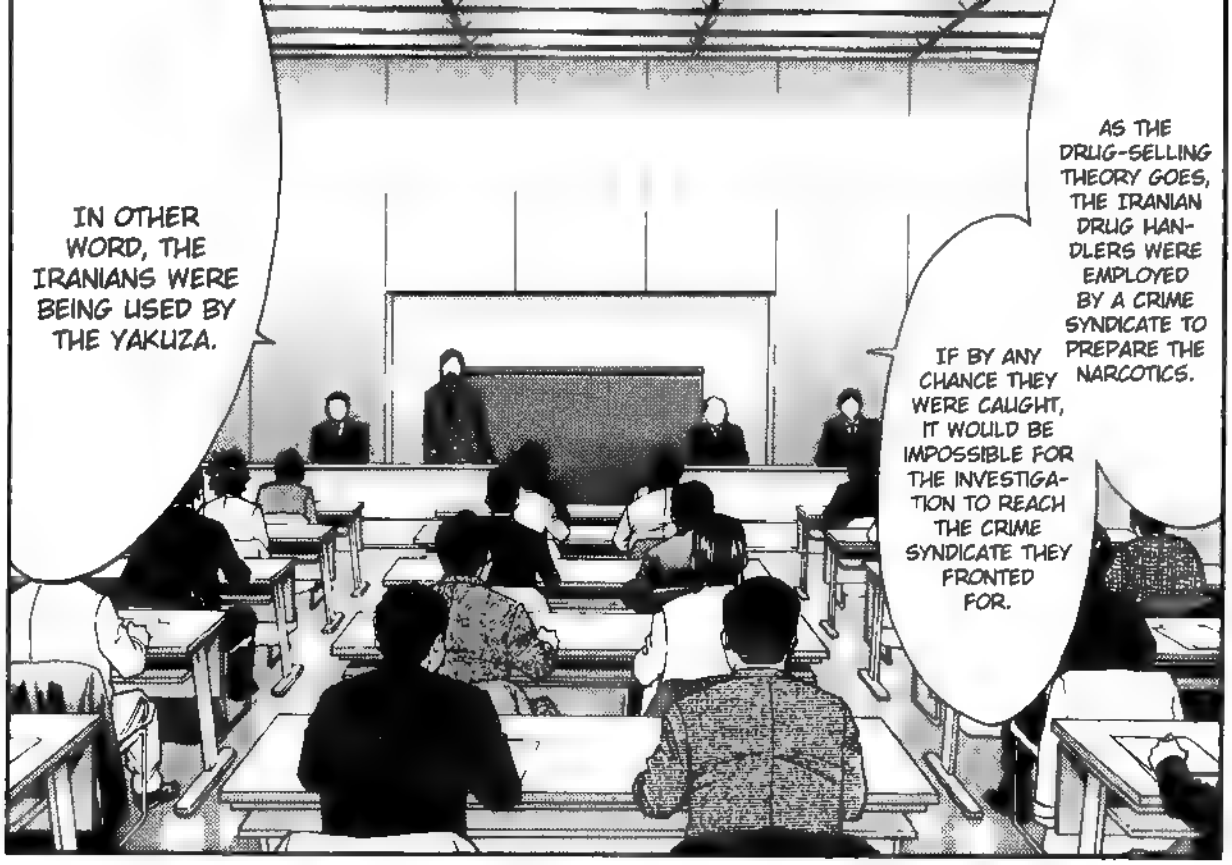
TL/N: Damn, I'll become a cynical curmudgeon by the end of this series if every mentor figure or smiling person who is important to Ryuzaki is later exposed as a psycho by Hibino's side glances!

TL/N. What's this, another "this is the perpetrator" flag!?

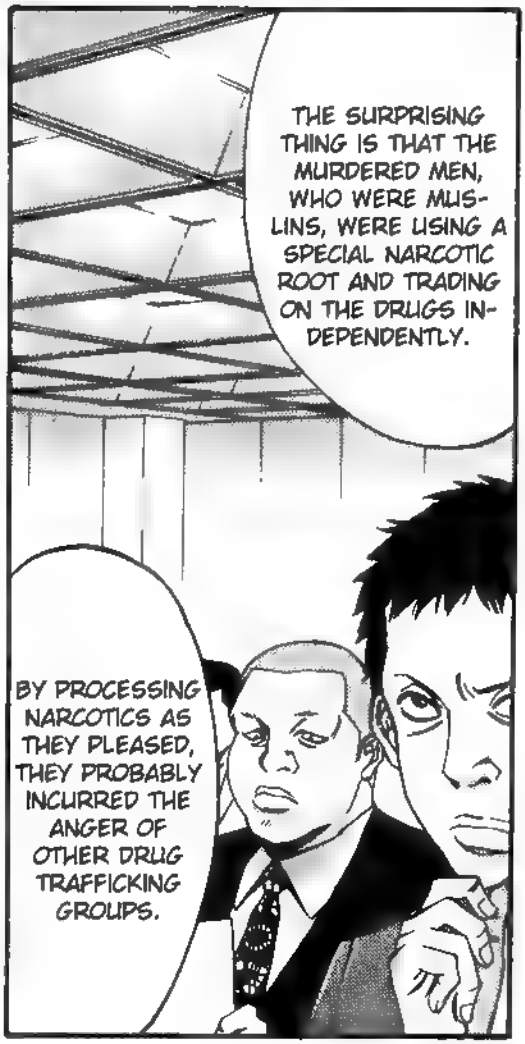




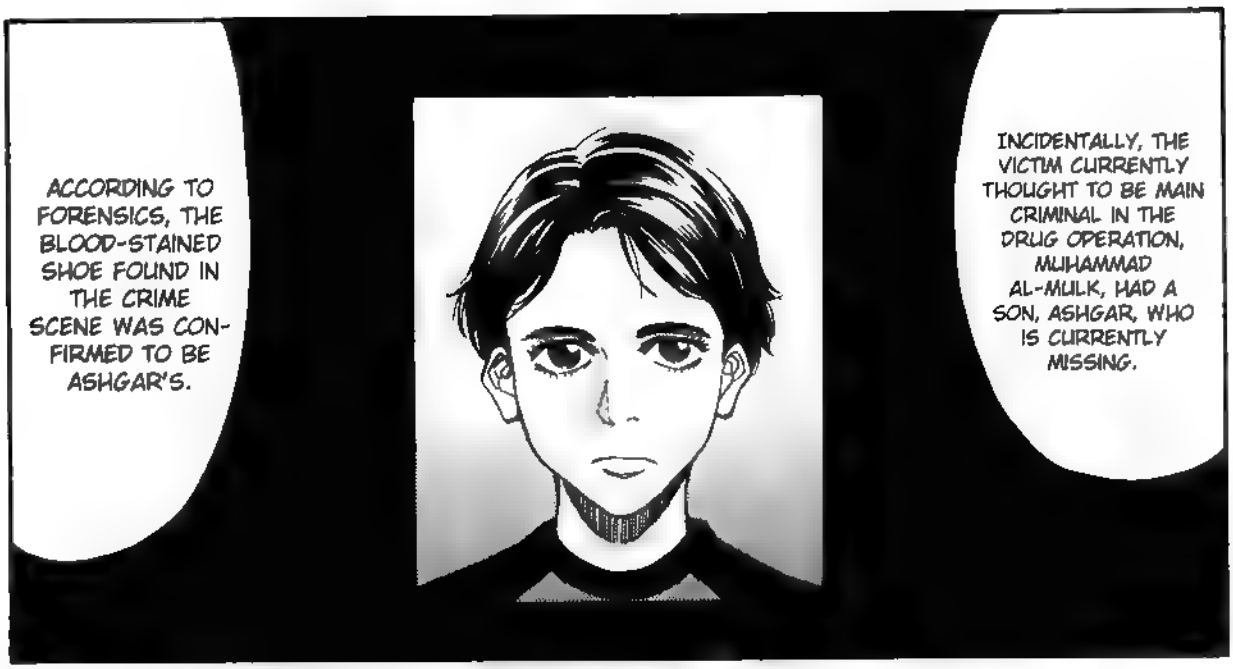
TS/N: Called it!


AS THE DRUG-SELLING THEORY GOES, THE IRANIAN DRUG HANDLERS WERE EMPLOYED BY A CRIME SYNDICATE TO PREPARE THE NARCOTICS.
IF BY ANY CHANCE THEY WERE CAUGHT, IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE FOR THE INVESTIGATION TO REACH THE CRIME SYNDICATE THEY FRONTED FOR.
IN OTHER WORD, THE IRANIANS WERE BEING USED BY THE YAKUZA.

SO THEIR DEATHS ARE LIKELY TO HAVE BEEN THE WORK OF OTHER NARCOTIC DEALERS...?
WE DON'T KNOW FOR CERTAIN, BUT THE PROBABILITY IS HIGH.


THE SURPRISING THING IS THAT THE MURDERED MEN, WHO WERE MUSLINS, WERE USING A SPECIAL NARCOTIC ROOT AND TRADING ON THE DRUGS INDEPENDENTLY.
BY PROCESSING NARCOTICS AS THEY PLEASED, THEY PROBABLY INCURRED THE ANGER OF OTHER DRUG TRAFFICKING GROUPS.

IN ANY CASE, BOTH VICTIMS AND PERPETRATORS BELONG TO THE UNDERWORLD. FINDING THE CULPRITS WILL BE RATHER DIFFICULT.
AND OF COURSE, IN A PLACE LIKE THAT THERE WERE NO EYEWITNESSES.
CERTAINLY...


ACCORDING TO FORENSICS, THE BLOOD-STAINED SHOE FOUND IN THE CRIME SCENE WAS CONFIRMED TO BE ASHGAR'S.
INCIDENTALLY, THE VICTIM CURRENTLY THOUGHT TO BE MAIN CRIMINAL IN THE DRUG OPERATION, MUHAMMAD AL-MULK, HAD A SON, ASHGAR, WHO IS CURRENTLY MISSING.

.....
TO LEAVE SUCH AN AMOUNT OF BLOOD, THE INFLICTED WOUND MUST HAVE BEEN QUITE SEVERE, RIGHT?

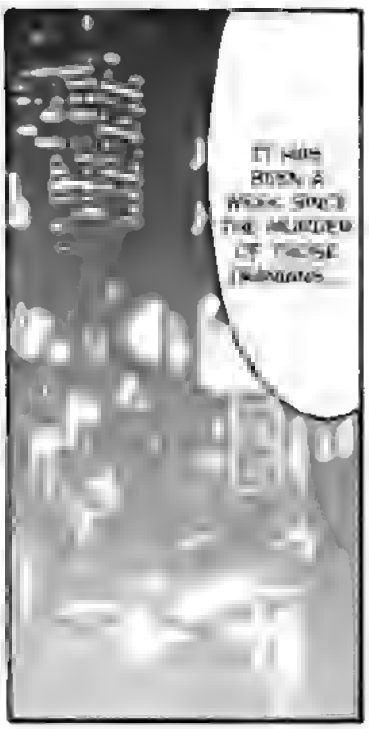
THESE CIRCUMSTANCES SUGGEST WITH HIGH PROBABILITY THAT ASHGAR WAS ALSO MURDERED.
THEY WENT AS FAR AS KILLING A CHILD!

BUT THAT SHOE...

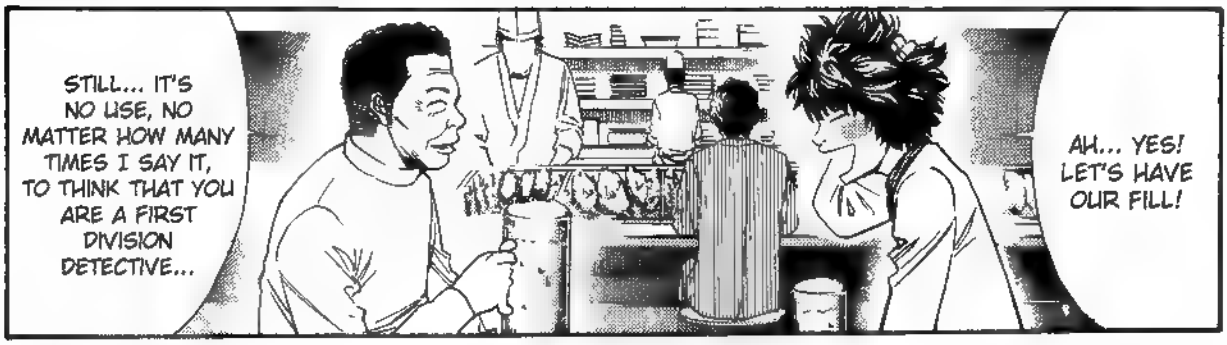
THE FACT THAT THERE WAS NO CORPSE... DID HE ESCAPE THAT PLACE...
AND DIE SOMEWHERE IN THAT MOUNTAIN?

TAT-CHAN!
JUST IN CASE... PLEASE LOOK FOR ASHGAR-KUN,

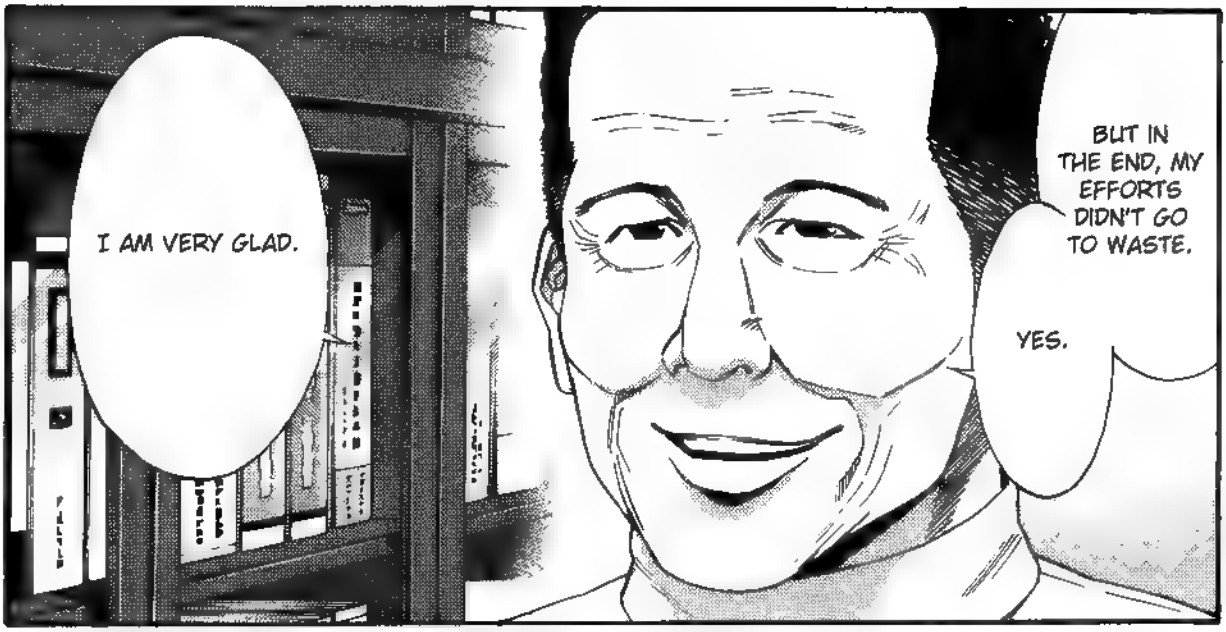
WE HAVE FOCUSED ON THE CRIME SYNDICATE CONNECTION BUT... THE VICTIMS BEING FOREIGNERS ADDS TO THE DIFFICULTY IN FINDING SOLID INFORMATION...
HAS THERE BEEN NO PROGRESS AFTER ALL?


IT HAS BEEN A WEEK SINCE THE MURDER OF THOSE INDIANS...

LET'S DRINK, RYUZAKI.
WELL, IT WILL DO NO GOOD TO RACK YOUR BRAINS TOO HARD ABOUT THE MATTER.


STILL... IT'S NO USE, NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES I SAY IT, TO THINK THAT YOU ARE A FIRST DIVISION DETECTIVE...
AH... YES! LET'S HAVE OUR FILL!

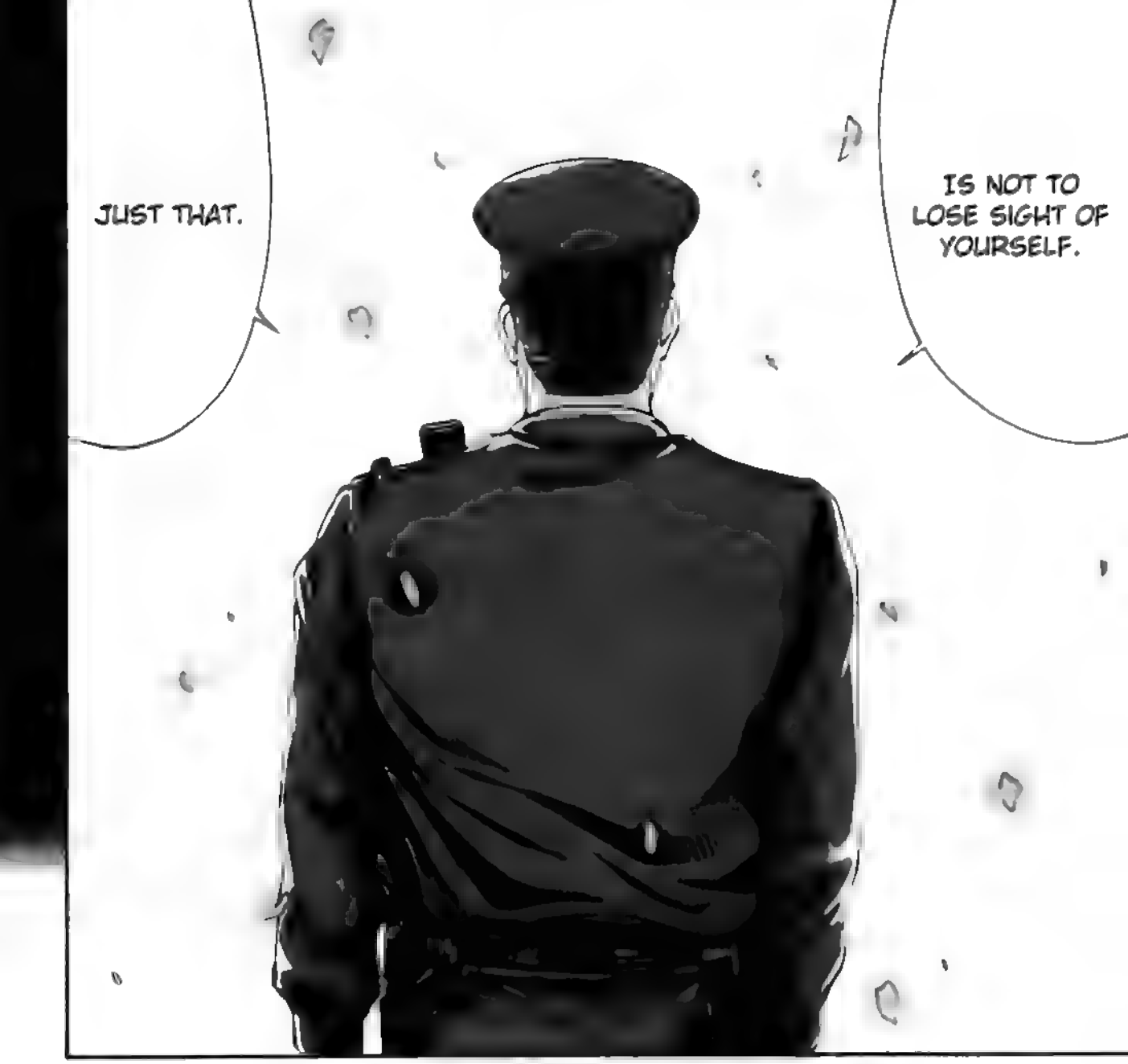
SO... SO EMBARRASSING...
FROM YELLING AT YOU EVERY DAY, MY THROAT GOT SO BUSTED I ENDED UP IN THE HOSPITAL, YOU BRAT!
I... I'M SORRY!
HEY, RYUZAKI! YOU FILLED THE LOST ARTICLE DELIVERY FORM WRONGLY AGAIN!
WHEN YOU ARRIVED AT THE POLICE BOX, YOU WERE REALLY A TROUBLESOME KID, WET BEHIND THE EARS...
SNOOOORE
THIS BASTARD...
YES, SIR.
BE CONSTANTLY AWARE OF YOUR SURROUNDINGS.


I AM VERY GLAD.
BUT IN THE END, MY EFFORTS DIDN'T GO TO WASTE.
YES.

.....
I WON'T BRAG ABOUT IT, BUT I AM FRIENDS WITH THE PROPRIETRESS OF THIS NICE PLACE...
TONIGHT I'LL TREAT YOU, SO PLEASE JOIN ME.

THEN I FOUND THERE WERE ALSO POLICE OFFICERS LIKE ZENBA-SAN...
TO BE HONEST, UNTIL THAT POINT I HADN'T A GOOD IMPRESSION OF THE POLICE, BUT...
?
IT IS ALL THANKS TO YOU, ZENBA-SAN.

PATROL OFFICER RYUZAKI?
WHY DID YOU THINK OF BECOMING A POLICE OFFICER,
ER.. AH...
BECAUSE I WAS A FAN OF TV DRAMAS AND THE LIKE, I SUPPOSE? OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT
IT'S NOT AS IF I CAN SAY THE REAL REASON.
THAT'S A COMMON REASON FOR THE YOUNG PEOPLE
SFX: step step
WELL, IT'S NOT THAT MUCH OF AN AMBITIOUS JOB,
A POLICE OFFICER'S, I MEAN.
SFX: rustle of leaves
BE IT BECAUSE OF THE GOOD SALARY,
OR BECAUSE YOU WANT TO BE AN ALLY OF JUSTICE,
OR WHATEVER THE REASON IT IS... WHAT'S ESSENTIAL...


JUST THAT.
IS NOT TO LOSE SIGHT OF YOURSELF.

SFX: wobble, wobble

SFX: drool TS/N: That... doesn't look like drool.

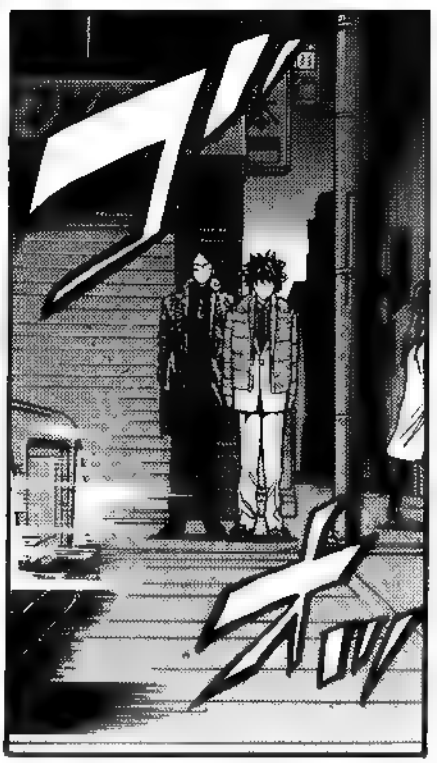
SFX: gaaah!

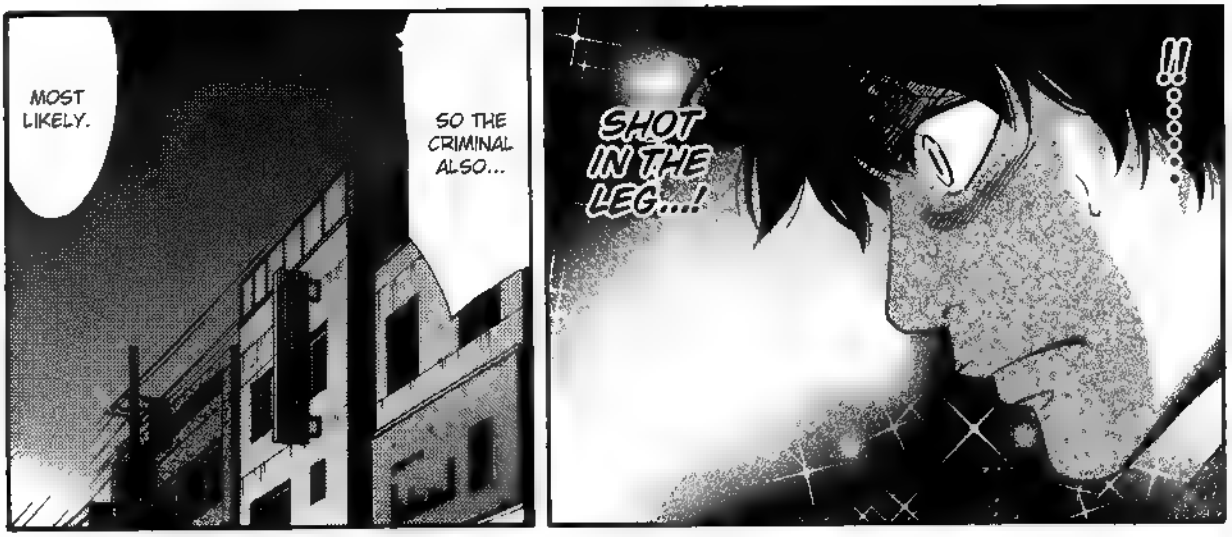
I'M GONNA TELL HER TO PICK ME AT HOME WIFF A PATROL CAR!! I'M GONNA DO JUST THAT!!
DRMN, BEING SCARED OF HIBINO-SAN IS UNBECOMING OF A POLICEMAN!!
がぁ
あ
あ

Ah... the breathe light is real... so calm...
WHO-OOH!!

SFX. vroom!

SFX. vroom!




MOST LIKELY.
SO THE CRIMINAL ALSO...
SHOT IN THE LEG...!
!!

WHY ON EARTH WOULD SUCH A KID MEET AN ARMS DEALER?
... WAIT A BIT.
AN ARMS DEALER?

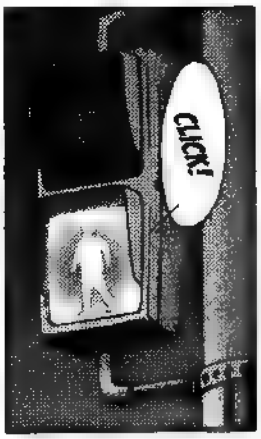
SFX: zoom!
WERE A MA-KAROV PISTOL AND A BOX OF BULLETS.
THE ITEMS ASHGAR BOUGHT

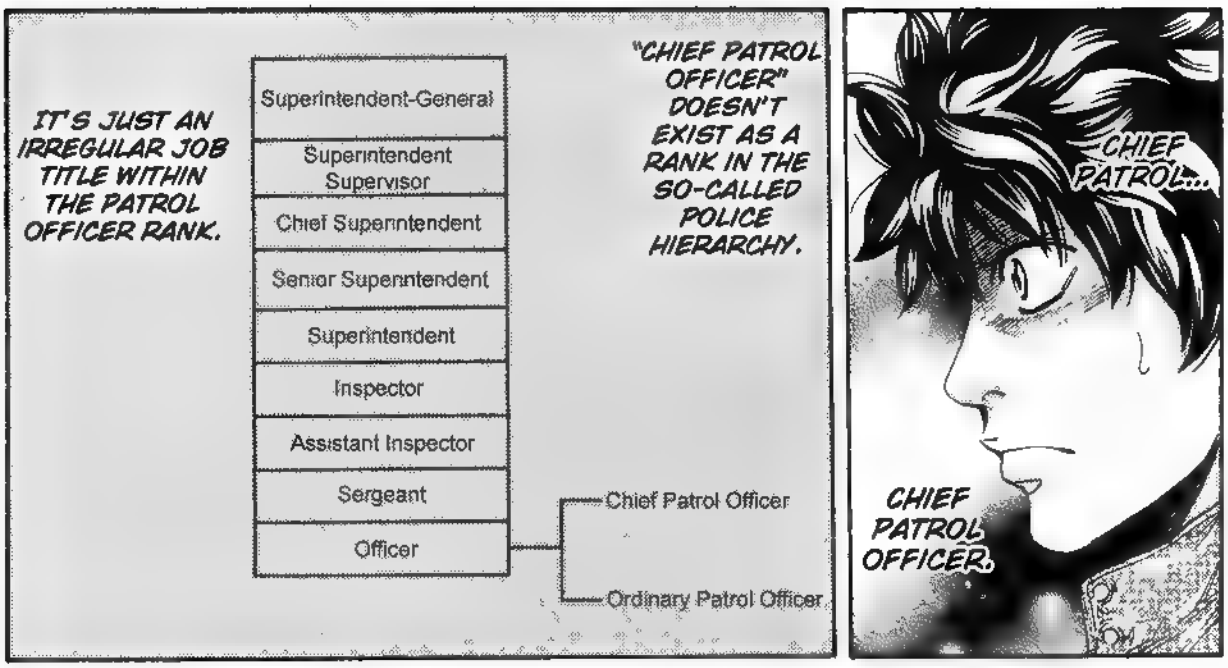
SFX: vroom!
THERE CAN BE ONLY ONE REASON TO MEET AN ARMS DEALER, RIGHT?
!!

IT'S TIME FOR CHILDREN TO GO HOME AND SLEEP, YOU KNOW
KID, WHERE DO YOU COME FROM? DO YOU EVEN UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU ARE SAYING?
"GIVE ME A GUN", YOU SAY?
HUH?
SFX: slip
I HAVE MONEY.
SFX: wobble
WHO THE HECK ARE YOU GOING TO KILL...
YOU... THAT LEG, THAT'S A LOT OF BLOOD, WHAT THE!?
I HAVE A PERSON TO KILL, A STRONG ONE.
YOU CAN HAVE IT ALL, SO GIVE ME A GUN.
!!

THE CHIEF PATROL!!
B
SFX: tchaan!

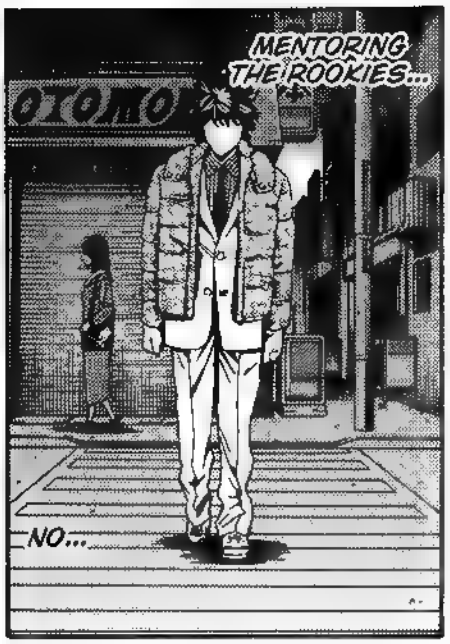
SFX. step step step




IT'S JUST AN IRREGULAR JOB TITLE WITHIN THE PATROL OFFICER RANK.
Superintendent-General
Superintendent Supervisor
Chief Superintendent
Senior Superintendent
Superintendent
Inspector
Assistant Inspector
Sergeant
Officer
Chief Patrol Officer
Ordinary Patrol Officer
"CHIEF PATROL OFFICER" DOESN'T EXIST AS A RANK IN THE SO-CALLED POLICE HIERARCHY.
CHIEF PATROL...
CHIEF PATROL OFFICER.

THEN, THOSE WHO FIT THIS DESCRIPTION, ON ACCOUNT OF THEIR SO-CALLED CHIEF PATROL STATUS, EXERT LEADERSHIP OVER THE ROOKIES.
THERE ARE PATROL OFFICERS WHO, AFTER AT LEAST SIX YEARS OF CONTINUOUS SERVICE, DISTINGUISH THEMSELVES FOR THEIR LEADERSHIP QUALITIES AND FIELD EXPERIENCE.

THAT PERSON, IF ONLY HE, IS NOT LIKE THAT!
NO WAY... I DON'T WANT TO BELIEVE IT!


MENTORING THE ROOKIES...
NO...

ZENBA-SAN
ALONE...

THINGS HAVE GONE SOUTH...
.....

HOW COULD SUCH A THING HAVE HAPPENED...
I, OF ALL PEOPLE, MESSED THINGS UP...

ACCORDING TO RYUZAKI, THE INVESTIGATION HAS RUN INTO TRO..BLE, BUT...
THAT FELLOW IS UNUSUALLY SHARP... I CAN'T BE CARELESS.

GOING SO FAR AS JOINING THE YAKUZA IN KILLING THAT IRANIAN SCUM... IT HAS COME BACK TO BITE ME...
AND IF THAT WERE NOT ENOUGH TROUBLE...

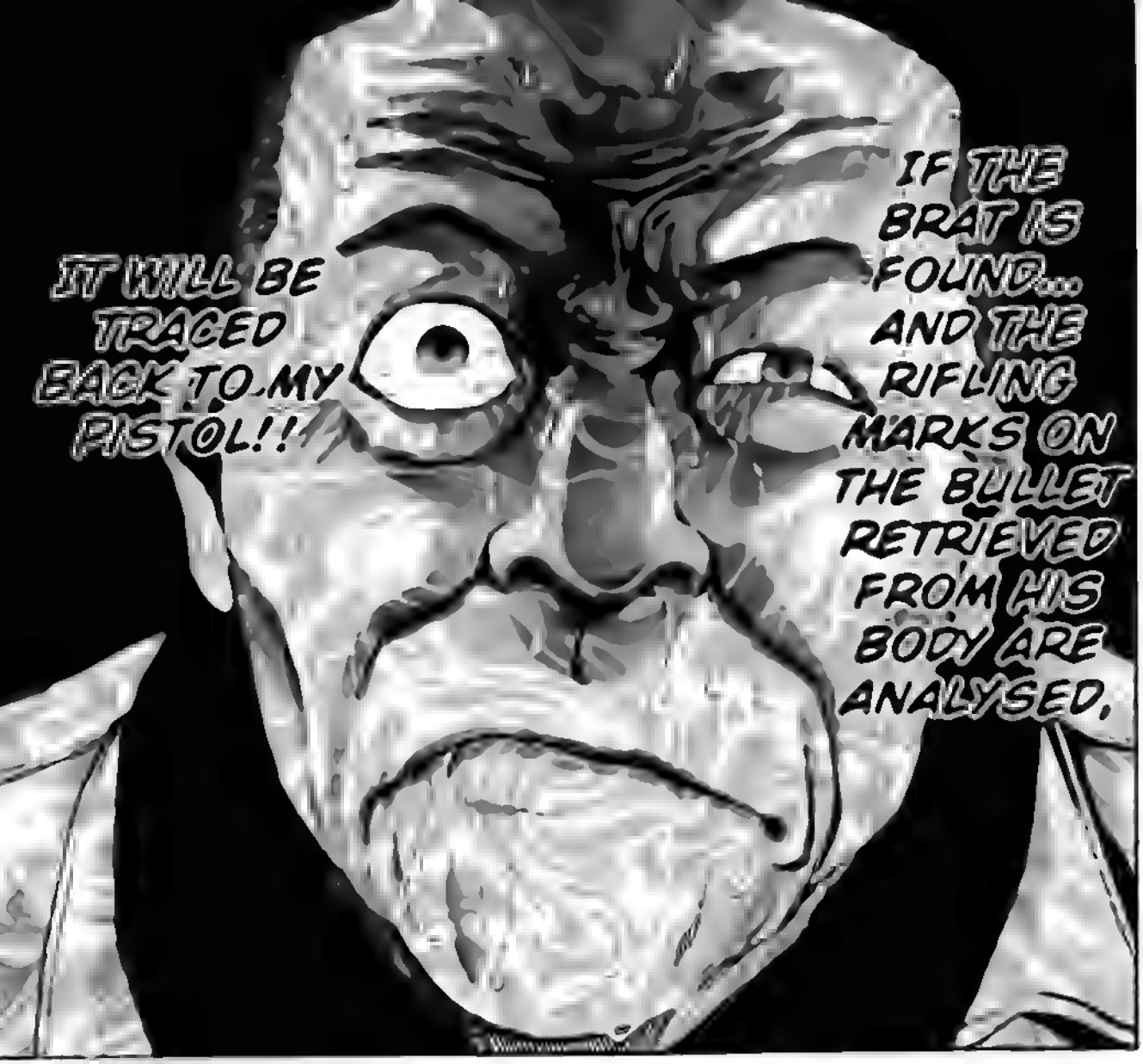
IT'S BECAUSE THEY UNDERESTIMATE THE YAKUZA
THIS FILTH
THEY COME TO OUR ISLANDS AND START GETTING COCKY
GOT IT, CHIEF PATROL OFFICER !
DON'T LEAVE FINGERPRINTS IN THE CRIME SCENE, YOU
IF YOU WANT THE NARCOTICS THESE FELLAS HAD, MAKE SURE SOME OF THE MONEY ALSO COMES MY WAY.
LEAVING THAT ASIDE ..
MY RANK IS NO DIFFERENT FROM A ROOKIE'S... THAT TITLE IS JUST A DECORATIVE THING.
DON'T CALL ME THAT

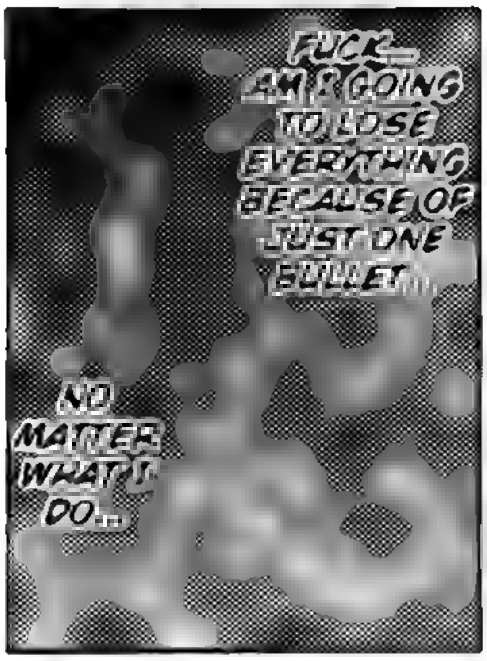
UNDER-STOOD.
MR. CHIEF PATROL OFFI-CER IS AN ESSENTIAL COMRADE OF OURS, AFTER ALL.
AND IN RETURN, KEEP US INFORMED OF POLICE RAIDS, PLEASE! HEHEHE
TSK! IT CAN'T BE HELPED... OKAY, BAS-TARDS.
OOH! THIS IS SOME QUALITY STUFF THESE PEOPLE HAD ON THEM!
THESE ARE GOING TO FETCH A HIGH PRICE!
SFX: hmph!

THAT KID... IS HE THOSE IRANIANS'...?
THIS IS BAD... IF I DON'T KILL HIM...!!
AH!!!
SFX: slash!
SHIT!
SFX: bang!
SFX: sound of leaves
!!
JoJI!

HE IS NOT HERE!!
WHA...
THEN... I REALISED I MYSELF HAD MADE A TERRIBLE MISTAKE.
AS IF I HAD BEEN NOW INTENDED ACCIDENTALLY BEING CARRYING IT WITH ME...!
WITH A POLICEMAN'S PISTOL!!
AND I HAD SHOT THAT BRAT

FROM JUST ONE BULLET IT IS POSSIBLE TO DETERMINE, IN AN INSTANT, THE OFFICER WHO FIRED IT, STATION, SECTION AND ALL.
NATURALLY, ALL THE RIFLING MARK PATTERNS OF GUNS HELD BY COPS ARE KEPT IN THE MPD DATABASE.
FROM THOSE, ONE CAN ACCURATELY IDENTIFY THE GUN USED TO FIRE THE BULLET... IT'S A "GUN FINGERPRINT", SO TO SPEAK!
A FIRED BULLET RETAINS, WITHOUT FAIL, RIFLING MARKS LEFT BY MUZZLE STREAKS ON ITS SURFACE.
Muzzle
NO BULLET WAS RETRIEVED FROM THE CRIME SCENE..!
I THOUGHT FORENSICS WOULD FIND IT. I WAS SWEATING COLD, BUT
WHEN I SHOT THE BRAT, I THOUGHT THE BULLET HAD PIERCED THROUGH. I SEARCHED THE AREA ALL NIGHT BUT DIDN'T FIND IT.
THE BULLET IS STILL LODGED IN THAT KID'S LEG!!
DRIP
DRIP
DRIP
... WHICH IS TO SAY, THERE IS ONLY ONE ANSWER.


IT WILL BE TRACED BACK TO MY PISTOL!!
IF THE BRAT IS FOUND... AND THE RIFLING MARKS ON THE BULLET RETRIEVED FROM HIS BODY ARE ANALYSED,


FUCK— AM I GOING TO LOSE EVERYTHING BECAUSE OF JUST ONE BULLET...
NO MATTER WHAT I DO...

IT'S NOT JUST THIS CASE

NO MATTER WHAT I DO, I

WILL RETRIEVE THAT BULLET!!

BAIKAL 442

ouroboros

ouroboros

ouroboros

THREE IRANIANS WHO WERE DEALING IN NARCOTICS WERE MURDERED.

CITY OF HACHIOJI, TOKYO METROPOLIS. IN A MOUNTAINOUS AREA WITHIN THE JURISDICTION OF THE ASAYAMA POLICE STATION

DNA ANALYSIS ESTABLISHED THAT THE BLOOD BELONGED TO A BOY NAMED ASHGAR, THE ONLY SON OF ONE OF THE MURDERED IRANIANS, MUHAMMAD AL-MULK.

ATTENTION FELL ON A BLOOD-SMEARED CHILD SHOE LEFT IN THE CRIME SCENE.

THE INVESTIGATION FOLLOWED THE THEORY OF A TURF WAR WITH ANOTHER ORGANISATION.

HOWEVER,

CHANCES OF ASHGAR BEING ALIVE WERE DEEMED HOPELESS...

THE INVESTIGATION HIT A DEAD-END...

NO EVIDENCE LEADING TO THE PERPETRATORS WAS DISCOVERED IN THE CRIME SITE.

第4話

CHAPTER NO. 4 SECTION

I, OF ALL PEOPLE, MADE SUCH A MIS-TAKE!!

I SHOT HIM WITH A POLICE-SUPPLIED NEW NAMBU.

AND TO CAP IT ALL...

AND WHAT'S MORE, I FAILED TO KILL HIM!!...

I WAS SPOTTED BY THAT IRANIAN BRAT AT THE PLACE HIS FATHER WAS KILLED...!!

TN: how Namiki killed a standard-issue entrenchment revolver at Post War Japan

IT IS LODGED IN HIS LEG!!

AFTER HITTING HIM, THE BULLET WAS TRE-TRENES FROM THE CRIME SCENE WHICH PROBABLY MEANS THAT, RIGHT NOW

IF THE BULLET IS FOUND BY THE POLICE, THE RIFLING MARKS

WILL DEFINITELY LEAD THEM TO ME!!

"PLEASE PUT UP WITH IT, ZENZA-KUN."

I'LL MEET MY END AT A [illegible]

CLENCH!

"REALLY!? I'M VERY GLAD. CONGRATULATIONS!!"

"SOMEHOW THEY DECIDED I'LL BECOME A DETECTIVE NEXT TIME. I AM TRANSFERRED... IT'S ALL THANKS TO YOU, ZENZA-KUN!"

"I AM SICK OF LIVING UNDER THE SAME ROOF AS YOU!"

"I AM LEAVING!!"

"LET'S GET DIVORCED."

"I CAN'T STAND YOU ANY LONGER. I'VE REACHED MY LIMIT."

PERHAPS HE WAS UNABLE TO DESCEND THE MOUNTAIN AND KICKED THE BUCKET SOMEWHERE NEAR.

THE BULLET HIT AND WITH HIS LEG BLEEDING THAT MUCH,

TS/N: Wishful thinking in the face of uncertainty. Next thing you know, Zenba's shouting "HOW CAN YOU BE ALIVE?!"

BEEP
BEEP
BEEP
BEEP

!

IF THAT IS THE CASE THE CORPSE WILL BE DEFINITELY AROUND HERE..

!?

ZENBA-SAN!

IT'S ME, RYUZAKI!

SHIT... I WILL NOT END MY DAYS...

IN A PLACE LIKE THAT!!

!?

I WAS WONDER'ING IF I COULD BORROW YOUR SKILLS FOR A BIT, ZENBA-SAN...

RYUZAKI IS IN THE AREA!?

!

RIGHT NOW I AM IN THE CR'ME SCENE. BUT

ZENBA-SAN, HERE, I'M HERE!

AH!

TL/N: Awww, it's his innocent smile with the childish blush... yep, Zenba-san is dead.

RIGHT?

AND THIS TOO, I HAVE LEARNT FROM YOU, ZENBA-SAN!

SFX: sniffle

THAT'S WHY I ASKED YOU TO COME, ZENBA-SAN.

T-THAT'S RIGHT, BUT... ISN'T IT DANGEROUS TO COME WHEN IT'S ALREADY GETTING DARK?

SFX: twitch!

!

I WAS THINKING OF LOOKING FOR THE BOY WHO IS MISSING, ASHGAR-KUN!

RY... RYUZAKI... WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN A PLACE LIKE THIS?

"GO A HUNDRED TIMES TO THE CRIME SCENE... WALK AROUND IT UNTIL YOUR LEGS HURT."

IF ZENBA-SAN, WHO IS FAMILIAR WITH THE AREA, IS WITH ME, I WON'T END UP GETTING LOST DEEP IN THE MOUNTAIN...

DEEP IN THE MOUNTAIN? WHAT ON EARTH ARE YOU SAYING...

.....

DON'T YOU AGREE, ZENBA-SAN?

HOWEVER, I THINK THIS WILL BE JUST SPECULATION IF WE DON'T START BY LOOKING FOR ASHGAR-KUN!

WE WOULD BE COMPELLED TO CONCLUDE THAT THE CHANCES OF HIM BEING ALIVE ARE RATHER SLIM.

IF WE GO BY THE AMOUNT OF BLOOD ON THAT SHOE RETRIEVED FROM THE CRIME SCENE,

I HAVE TO SAY I THINK IT WILL BE QUITE THE MESSY AFFAIR, CONDUCTING A SEARCH IN THIS WIDE MOUNTAIN AREA.

WELL, RYUZAKI, I GET WHERE YOU ARE COMING FROM, BUT...

IF BY CHANCE RYUZAKI MANAGES TO FIND THE BRAT'S CORPSE, HE WILL ALSO FIND THE INCRIMINATING BULLET!!

TSK... THIS FELLOW IS SUCH A NUISANCE...

LET'S HURRY BEFORE IT GETS DARK, ZENBA-SAN!

WE DO.

WE DON'T EVEN HAVE PROOF THAT ASHGAR WAS SHOT IN THE FIRST PLACE...

AND THAT'S BECAUSE I HAVE JUST FOUND IT,

THE BULLET SHOT AT ASHGAR-KUN!

YOU!?

Y... Y-Y- YOU...

FOUND IT!?

YES!

BY PURE CHANCE I NOTICED A HOLE IN THE TREE IN THE SAME DIRECTION AS WHERE THE SHOE FELL.

AND THEN,

FROM THE BEGINNING, THAT BLOOD-SPATTERED SHOE MADE ME UNEASY AND SO I WALKED AROUND THAT SPOT MANY TIMES.

THE HEAD WAS DEFORMED BY THE IMPACT, BUT I THINK IT WILL BE POSSIBLE TO ANALYSE THE RIFLING MARKS.

THE REASON IT ESCAPED THE FORENSIC TEAM WAS PROBABLY BECAUSE THE BULLET HAD BURIED ITSELF INTO THE TRUNK.

I WAS SURE IT WAS LODGED IN THAT BRAT'S LEG!!

THAT'S QUITE AN ACHIEVE-MENT... ISN'T IT... YEAH...

I... I SEE...

TH-

WHAT THE HELL...

SFX: twitch

C-CALM DOWN... I AM NOT CORNERED...

AFTER WE'RE DONE LOOKING FOR ASHGAR-KUN, I WANT TO TAKE IT TO THE INVESTI-GATION HEAD-QUARTERS...

I CAN COVER UP MY CRIME...

IF I CAN REPLACE IT FOR ANOTHER BULLET BEFORE RYUZAKI RETURNS TO THE STATION,

PERHAPS,

WHA... WHAT ARE YOU SAYING, RYUZAKI!?

LET'S GO SEARCH FOR ASH-GAR-KUN WITHOUT DELAY! HURRY UP!

EH? BUT JUST NOW YOU WERE SAYING...

!!

AH... BUT IT'S REALLY GETTING DARK NOW.

I SHOULD GO BACK TO THE STATION NOW, REALLY...

THIS IS MY CHANCE!!

...
YEAH.

AND IF IT'S DECIDED, WE HAD BETTER GET GOING!

BUT YOU CAN REST ASSURED THAT WITH ME, WHOSE JURISDICTION INCLUDES THE AREA, YOU WON'T GET LOST!

N-NO, I SAID IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE FOR YOU, WHO DOESN'T KNOW THIS MOUN-TAIN!

SFX. thump!

CALM DOWN...

SFX. sound of leaves in the wind

RYUZAKI, YOU...

THIS IS THE WORST

!?

AH!

BY HOOK OR BY CROOK!

I WILL SOMEHOW SWAP THE BULLET WHILE WE SEARCH...

I'LL GO BACK AND LOOK!!

SFX. dash

H-HUH!? THE BULLET ISN'T HERE!?

THERE IS A HOLE IN MY POCKET!

IF I CHANGE IT WHILE I CAN...

THIS IS MY CHANCE! WHERE DID IT FALL!?

!!

IT SEEMS I HAD PUT IT INTO THE OTHER POCKET.

AH... I'M SORRY, IT WAS HERE... THE BULLET ...

SFX: water flowing

SFX. grash

CALM DOWN!!

CA-

... OH, A RIVER.

SFX: WATER FLOWING

ASHGAR-KUN WON'T BE IN THE OTHER SIDE OF THIS RIVER.

... IN THAT CASE...

IT'S NOT JUST THE STREAM, IT'S ALSO QUITE DEEP. A CHILD CANNOT CROSS THIS RIVER.

THE STREAM IS QUITE FAST, ISN'T IT...

SFX: step

HEY, RYUZAKI.

THEN HAND ME THE BULLET, JUST IN CASE.

LET'S TRY SEARCHING THIS AREA FOR A BIT.

IT WOULD BE A SHAME IF SOMETHING LIKE THAT A WHILE AGO HAPPENED, RIGHT?

THE TERRAIN HERE IS ROUGH AND IT WILL BE BAD IF BY ANY CHANCE YOU STUMBLE AND LOSE IT.

!!

IF I SAID THAT,

I'D BE LYING!

SFX: turn!

SFX: slip

ALRIGHT!!

AH... YOU'RE RIGHT...

THI-

TO PUT ME TO THE TEST LIKE THIS IS MEAN, ZENBA-SAN...

hehehe

SFX: quaking with anger

THIS DAMN

BRAT!!

"THAT'S THE SENSE OF RESPON-SIBILITY POLICEMEN HAVE!"

"NO MATTER HOW SMALL THEY ARE, DON'T LEAVE YOUR TASKS TO OTHER PEOPLE!"

ZENBA-SAN GOT MAD AT ME TOO OFTEN IN THE OLD DAYS, DIDN'T YOU?

TS/N: Right now, I'm smiling like Toby Maguire in spiderman 3. You know which smile.

ZENBA-SAN, LOOK OVER THERE, PLEASE!

!!

IF HE TOOK A RUN UP AND JUMPED ONTO THAT ROCK, HE WOULD BE ABLE TO GET TO THE OTHER SIDE, RIGHT!?

WHAT'S THIS BRAT UP TO NOW!?

AH!?

OF COURSE IT IS, NOW LET'S GET GOING!

... IS THAT SO?

SFX: turn

BESIDES, THERE'S NO WAY THEY WOULD BE ABLE TO DO IT AFTER BEING SHOT IN THE LEG!

THIS IS NOT A GAME, YOU DOLT.

HE WOULD SLIP ON THE MOSS, FALL INTO THE STREAM AND DIE!

<3.

TL/N: ZENBA-SAN, YOU IDIOT

HOW DO YOU KNOW

ZENBA-SAN.

THAT ASHGAR-KUN WAS SHOT IN THE LEG?

THERE IS NO WAY ONE COULD TELL HE WAS SHOT IN THE LEG JUST BY FINDING A BLOOD-STAINED SHOE.

UNLESS, OF COURSE, THEY WERE THE CRIMINAL WHO SHOT HIM.

SYX leaves in the wind

I REALLY WANTED TO BE WRONG!

.. I DIDN'T WANT TO BELIEVE IT.

SYX #11

WHAT I REALLY WANTED WAS TO VERIFY THAT YOU WERE THE CRIMINAL.

INCIDENTALLY, THIS BULLET IS A FORGERY.

AND THE PERSON BEHIND THE GROUP DEALING IN NARCOTICS!?

ZENBA-SAN... HOW COULD YOU BE THE PERPETRATOR OF THE MURDERS OF THOSE IRANIANS...

JUST WHY...

..ALWAYS GAVE..

!?

.....

EVEN THOUGH I THOUGHT YOU WERE AN UPSTANDING POLICE OFFICER...

THE POLICE

I ALWAYS GAVE MY UTMOST EFFORT TO BEING AN UPSTANDING POLICE OFFICER..

AND YET,

NEVER LET ME BE ONE!!

JUST AS THERE ARE HAPPY-GO-LUCKY FELLAS LIKE YOU, THERE ARE THOSE WHO ARE BROKEN HUMAN BEINGS AND TOTALLY UNFIT FOR BEING POLICE OFFICERS.

IN OUR ROLES AS CHIEF PATROLS, EDUCATING NOVICE POLICE OFFICERS IS AN ENDLESS ORDEAL.

YOU PROBABLY DON'T UNDERSTAND THE ANGUISH THAT IS THE LIFE OF A VETERAN CHIEF PATROL OFFICER.

!? WHAT ARE YOU SAYING...

THAT KID WAS THE ONLY SON OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE NPA COMMISSIONER-GENERAL'S SECRETARIAT.

A FEW YEARS AGO, I WAS IN CHARGE OF ONE OF THOSE CONCEITED NEOPHYTES WHO WERE BETTER SUITED TO BEING A CRIMINAL THAN A POLICE OFFICER...

HADN'T YOU PROMISED THAT I WOULD...?

PLEASE BEAR WITH IT, ZENBA-KUN...

THIS IS AN ORDER ISSUED BY THE NPA PERSONNEL DIVISION...

!?

WHAT ARE YOU SAYING, STATION CHIEF?

STATION CHIEF

YOU'RE NOT LETTING ME BE PROMOTED?

"I WAS UNFAIRLY MISTREATED BY CHIEF PATROL ZENBA", OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT.

IT IS PROBABLY DUE TO YOUR HAVING HIT THE SON OF THE NPA SECRETARIAT DIRECTOR WHILE HE WAS UNDER YOUR TUTELAGE.

HE PROBABLY WENT WHINING ON YOU TO HIS DAD.

THAT IS!!

THA-

BU... BUT WITH OUR CURRENT BUDGET PROBLEMS, THE STATION CANNOT OPPOSE THE HIGHER-UPS...

I AM FEELING VERY SORRY FOR YOU, BELIEVE ME.

I'M SURE YOU UNDERSTAND DON'T YOU?

I... I UNDERSTAND THAT WELL ENOUGH, YOU KNOW...

BU... BUT THAT FELLOW WAS ILLEGALLY SELLING LOST ARTICLES TO THE PAWN SHOP AS HE PLEASED!

UNDER NORMAL CONDITIONS, EVEN RESIGNING WOULDN'T...

WHAT DO YOU UNDERSTAND ABOUT MY PROBLEMS!?

WILL YOU JUST STOP...

SHUT UP!

SFX: crash

DO YOU UNDERSTAND HOW I FEEL ABOUT HAVING MY CAREER PATH FOREVER SHUT BEFORE ME!?

JUST WHEN I THOUGHT THAT I, TOO, AT LONG LAST...

ALWAYS, ALWAYS BEING SCOOPED BY MY JUNIORS...

PLE-PLEASE FORGIVE US, ZEN-BA-SAN!

WHAT WILL I DO NOW!?

JUST WHAT!?

HOW ABOUT IT?

IF YOU JUST DO US A FAVOUR THIS ONCE... HERE...

WILL YOU TURN A BLIND EYE JUST THIS TIME, PLEASE, ZENBA-SAN!! I'M BEGGING YOU...

CUT THE CRAP! YOU ARE IN FLAGRANT VIOLATION OF THE NARCOTIC CONTROL LAW...

I KEPT PERFORMING THE ROLE OF THE POLICE OFFICER EVERYONE CAN TRUST.

OSTENSIBLY I WASN'T SUSPECTED.

...AND BY TAKING IT OUT ON MY FAMILY EVERY DAY.

AND THE STRESS, I RELIEVED THROUGH MONEY... WOMEN...

GAMBLING AND SO ON...

I HAD NEVER ENJOYED MYSELF UNTIL THEN. I HAD LIVED AN HONEST LIFE EVERY SINGLE MINUTE.

FALLING WAS SO SIMPLE.

BEFORE I KNEW IT, I HAD ALREADY

HIT THE BOTTOM.

To/M. He first got my hatred for the extremes of life on this page.

ZENBA-SAN...

"WELL, RYUZAKI..."

"I AM VERY GLAD... RYUZAKI."

"HEY, HEY, DON'T BE SO TENSE, ROOKIE."

EVEN IN VIEW OF A REASON LIKE THAT, HIS DEEDS ARE UNFORGIVABLE.

ZENBA-SAN ISN'T REALLY A BAD PERSON...

BUT...

HE IS JUST...

ASHGAR

A
ASHGAR

!!

CHIEF
PA-
TRAAA
AL!!

ASHGAR... I UNDERSTAND YOUR FEELINGS-
AND YOUR PAIN... BUT...

BANG!

I CAN'T LET YOU KILL...

EH?

HAA

HAA

HAA

HAA

HAA

I CAN'T BE-LIEVE AFTER BEING SHOT YOU'D COME FOR MY NECK LIKE THIS!!

I AM SO LUCKY!

I AM SO LUCKY, AREN'T I, RYU-ZAKI?

ARGH ...

HA... HA HA...

LUCKY ...

.....

YOU HAVE MY THANKS, RYUZAKI. IF YOU HADN'T ACTED AS A SHIELD, I'D HAVE BEEN KILLED.

JUST WHAT...

ZENBA-SAN?

WHAT...

SFX: kick!

!!

AND AFTER THAT, IF I KILL YOU THERE WILL BE NO ONE WHO KNOWS OF MY CRIMES.

FIRST I'LL KILL ASHGAR AND RETRIEVE THAT BULLET.

UGH...

I HAVE CHANGED MY MIND.

MY BAD.

AARGH!

I TOLD YOU THAT, RIGHT?

"FOR A POLICE OFFICER, WHAT IS THE MOST IMPORTANT THING?"

RYUZAKI... BEFORE YOU DIE, THERE IS ONE THING I HAVE TO APOLOGISE TO YOU FOR.

"THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IS...."

"WHATEVER YOUR MOTIVES FOR BECOMING A POLICEMAN ARE,"

SORRY. I TAKE THAT BACK...

THEY ARE JUST PRETTY WORDS I COULDN'T HELP SPOUTING AS A "POLICE OFFICER"!!

SFX. hahahahaha

SFX. grab

HA...

SFX. clench!

SFX. toss

SFX. swish

WHA!?

SFX. bang!

CLICK!

SFX: dash

TS/N: I'm Doug Pimmadome, owner of the Pimmsdale Pimmadome and you, sir, Pimmadun goof'd.

YOU... THOSE EYES...

RYU...? ZAKI?

"IS NOT TO LOSE SIGHT OF YOURSELF... JUST THAT."

"AS A POLICE OFFICER, THE MOST IMPORTANT THING"

RYUZAKI... YOU ARE THE SAME AS ?...

... I'M SORRY, ZENBA-SAN.

I FELL JUST LIKE YOU... A LONG TIME AGO.

I AM NOT A "POLICE OFFICER".

SFX: bang!

ANYWAY...

INSTEAD OF YOU, IT WOULD HAVE BEEN JUST AS WELL IF I HAD KILLED HIM.

YEAH...

... IS YOUR ARM OKAY, IKUO?

NO.

IT WAS GOOD THIS WAY.

SERIOUSLY... STILL THE INCORRIGIBLE SENTIMENTAL FOOL, AREN'T YOU?

SFX. crunch

TAT-CHAN.

THANK YOU,

AH...

YOU HAVE KILLED HIM.

THANK YOU...

AH...

THE GOOD GUYS? OR THE BAD GUYS?

ARE YOU

WHO KNOWS...

ouroboros

ouroboros

ouroboros

ouroboros

FLG
STOP RIGHT THERE!
!!

KYAH!
SFX punch
SFX grab
!
FWIP!
UGH!

!!
I HAVE NO USE FOR FUGLIES'

凪 第5話

CHAPTER 74: LULL

I... I AM SORRY, HIBINO-SAN...
ヒョコ
ヒョコ
AH...
OF COURSE, YOU ARE... ANGRY AT ME, RIGHT?
SFX. wobble, wobble
I'M SO VERY SORRY! YESTERDAY I WAS CALLED ALL OF A SUDDEN BY BANDO-SAN!
THERE WAS SOME PHYSICAL WORK AND HE NEEDED HELP
.....
.....
... I'M NOT REALLY MAD AT YOU OR ANYTHING.
IF THEY NEEDED MANPOWER, IT COULDN'T BE HELPED.
MAN-POWER, YOU SAY.

SO, DID THE SERIAL RAPIST ESCAPE IN THE END?
SHE IS ANGRY
I'M NOT ANGRY! AND AS I AM NOT ANGRY AT ALL
SFX: flap flap

IF SUCH A SIMPLISTIC CRIMINAL WERE NOT APPREHENDED IMMEDIATELY, IT WOULD BE A STAIN IN THE HONOUR OF THE FIRST DIVISION, DON'T YOU THINK?
IN JUST ONE MONTH, THERE HAVE BEEN THREE CASES OF RAPE IN THAT AREA.
METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT, CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION BUREAU, FIRST DIVISION DIRECTOR - SUPERINTENDENT TAKENOUCHI KATSUMI (NICKNAME - MARO)

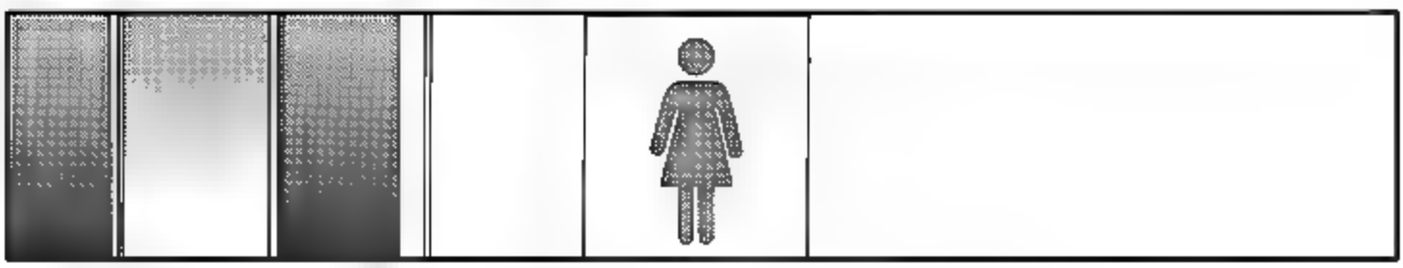
!!
.....!
He is here...

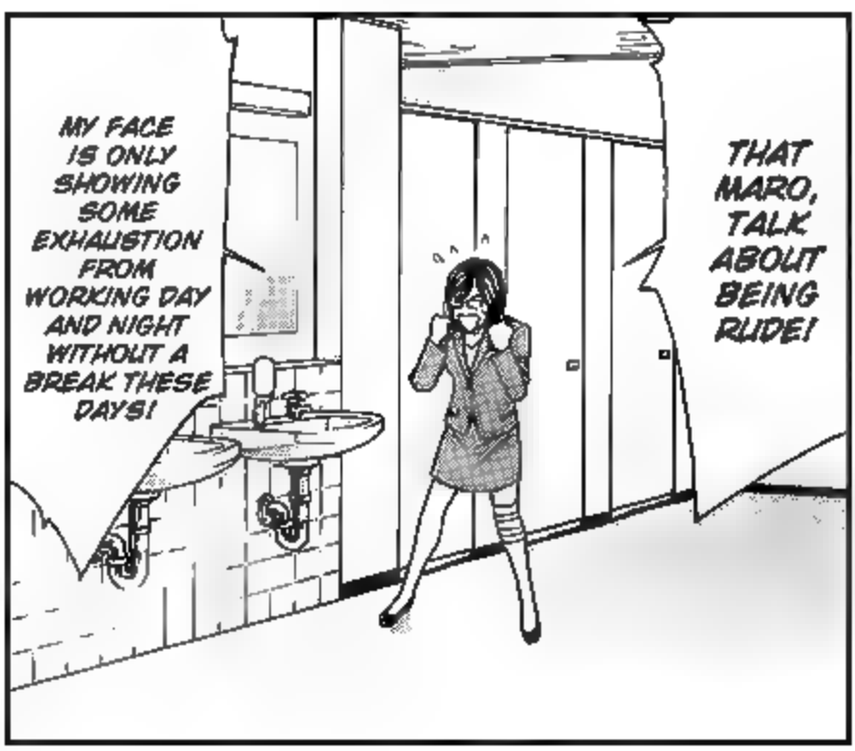
GOTTEN UGLY?
HAVE YOU

HUH?
.. I UNDERSTAND THAT MUCH, NO NEED TO TELL ME!

IF THE WORLD-FAMOUS FIRST DIVISION DETECTIVES DON'T TAKE CARE OF THEMSELVES, WE WILL BE THE LAUGHING STOCK OF OTHER JURISDICTIONS! PFFT!
EVEN THOUGH YOU ARE STILL SO YOUNG, YOUR FACE HAS AGED TERRIBLY.
NO GOOD, NO GOOD!
FFFK!

SFX: gloom

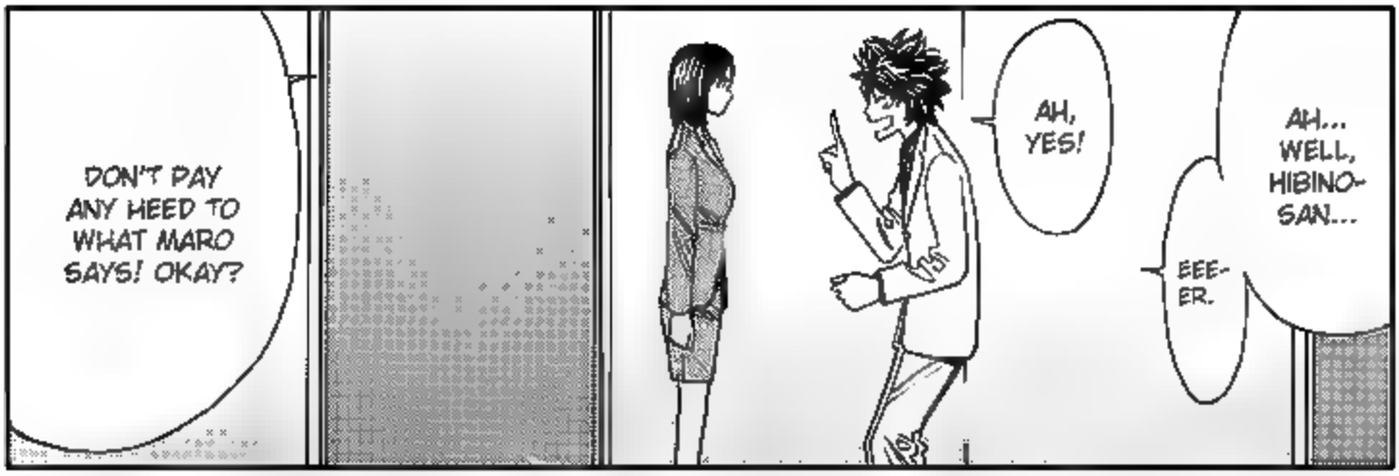



MY FACE IS ONLY SHOWING SOME EXHAUSTION FROM WORKING DAY AND NIGHT WITHOUT A BREAK THESE DAYS!
THAT MARO, TALK ABOUT BEING RUDE!

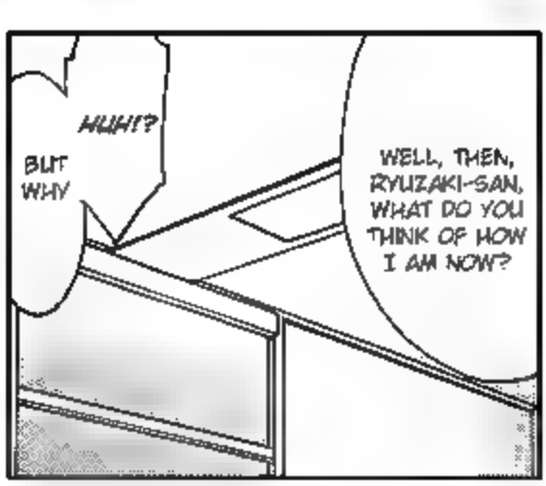
YS/N: Whachu gon do? Get PICE and become a top model?

WHAT... IS THIS?

DARK CIRCLES DUE TO SLEEP DE-PRIVATION.
ACNE CAUSED BY AN INCREASE IN MALE HORMONES.
ROUGH SKIN DUE TO LACK OF CARE.
THIS PERSON IS HIDEOUS...
THI...
SFX. step step
!
ALL THE SAME, HIBINO-SAN IS NOT A LITTLE GIRL.
Hmmm...
FOR MARO'S WORDS TO HAVE CAUSED SUCH A SHOCK...


DON'T PAY ANY HEED TO WHAT MARO SAYS! OKAY?
AH, YES!
AH... WELL, HIBINO-SAN...
EEE-ER.

SFX: cornered


HUH!?
BUT WHY
WELL, THEN, RYUZAKI-SAN, WHAT DO YOU THINK OF HOW I AM NOW?

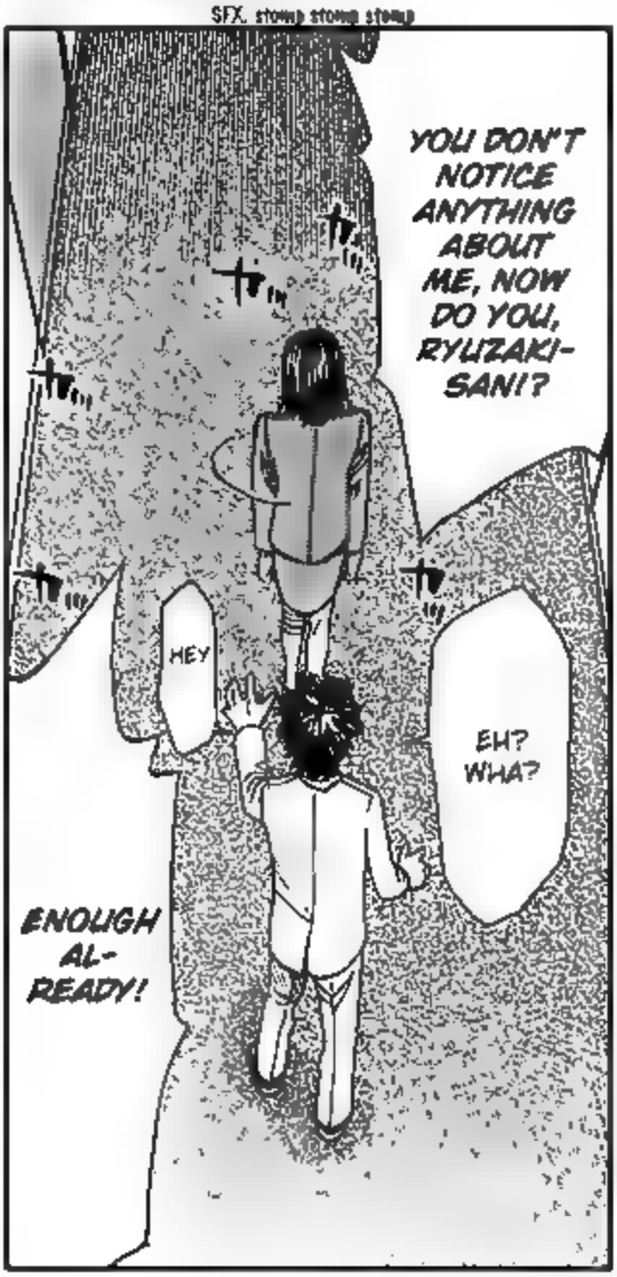
SFX: pawnch!

SFX: blush
YOU LOOK CUTE!
JU... JUST LIKE ALWAYS, CU...

SFX. rumble

TS/N: I am REALLY impressed she can keep those glasses on without a nose.

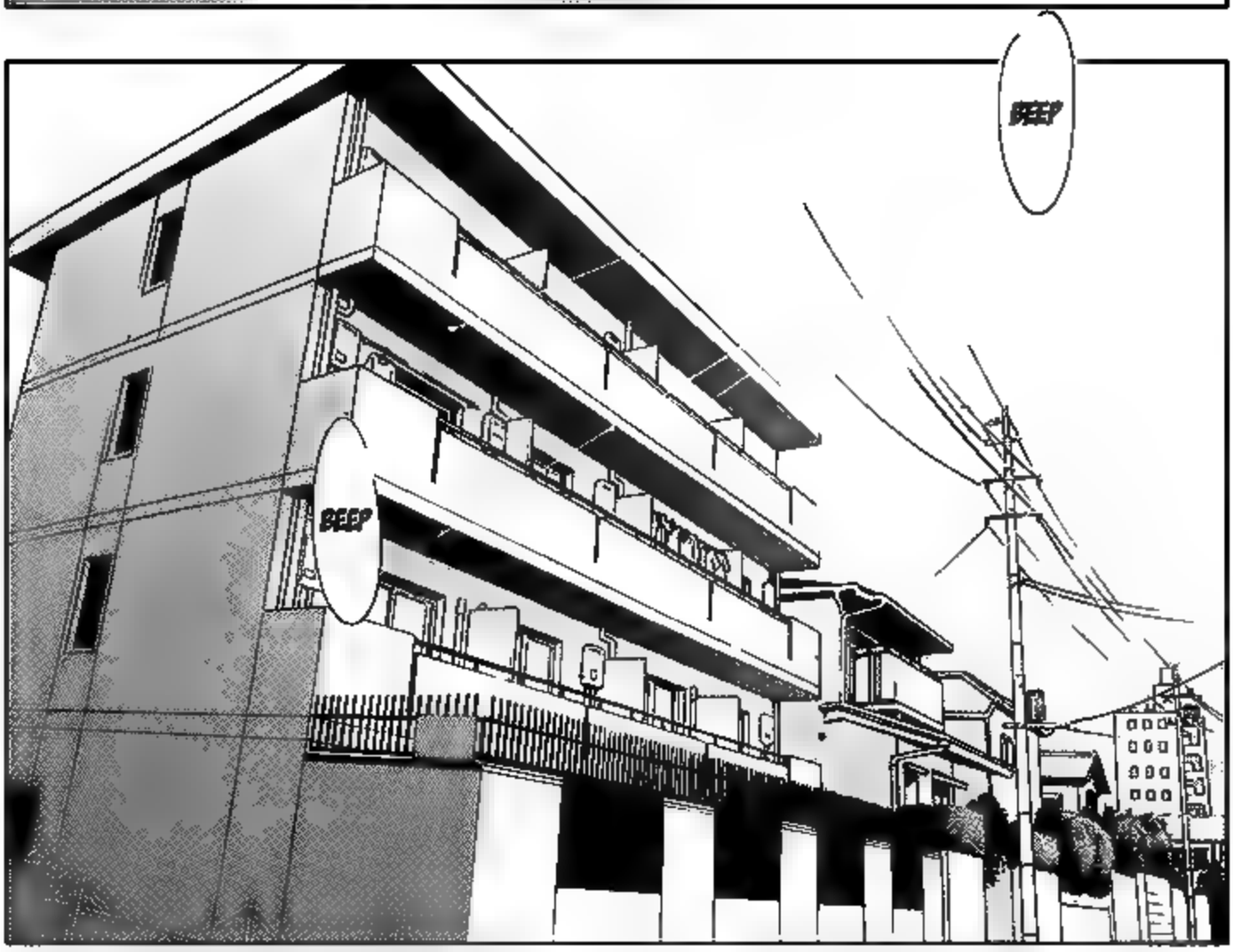
SFX. stomp stomp stomp

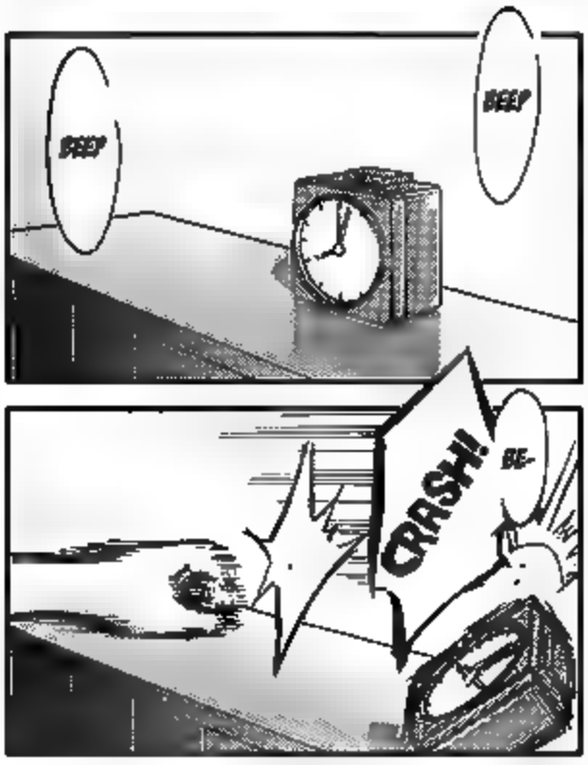


SFX. jolt!

TS/N: There's a serial rapist on the loose and fuck knows what else, and this sonuvagun-fretting, biscuit-eating bitch is worried about his hair

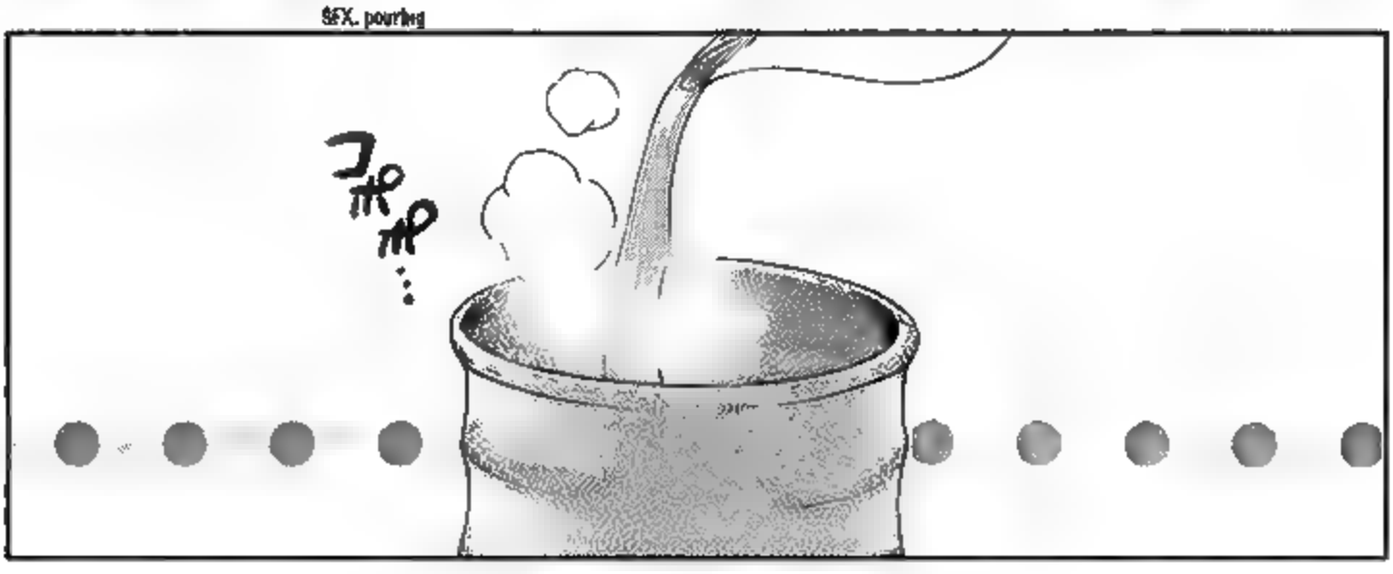
!?
GIVE ME
SOME TIME OFF.

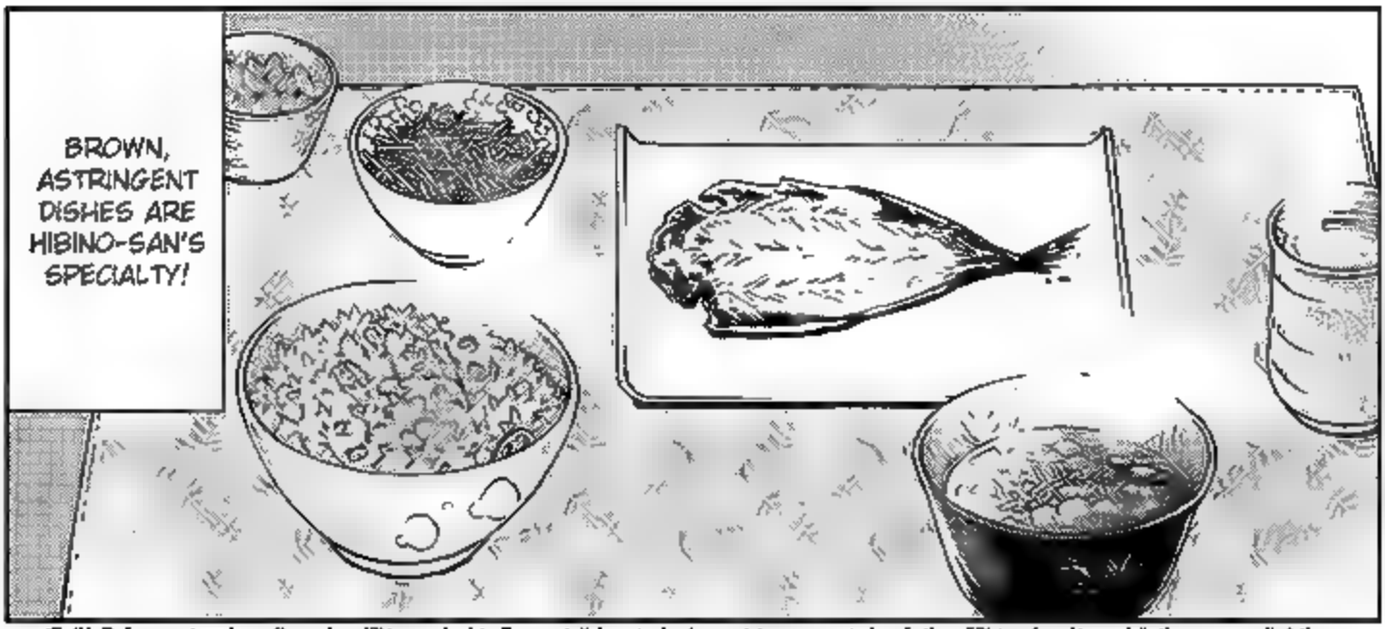

BEEP
BEEP


BEEP
BEEP
CRASH!
BE-

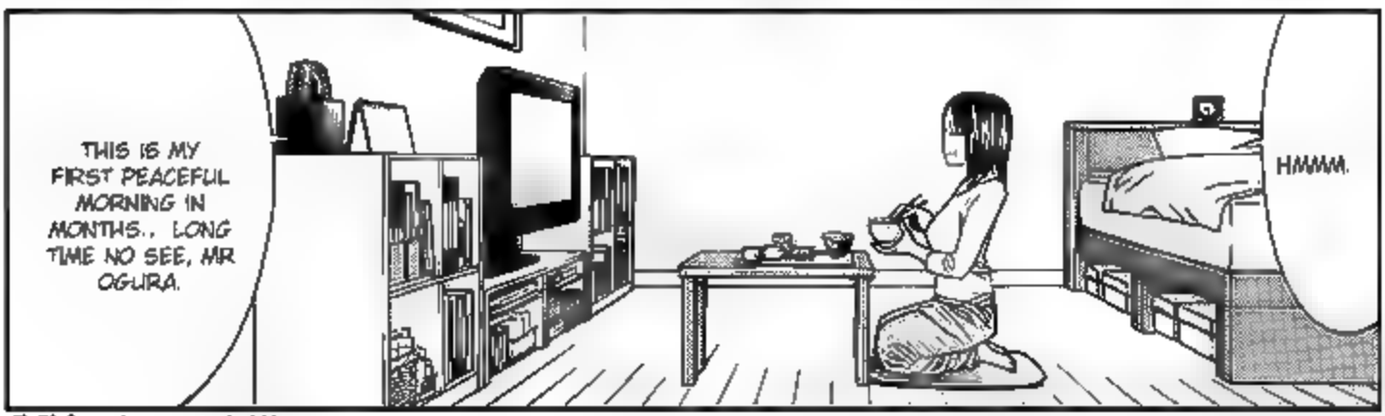
BEEP
BEEP
BEEP

CLENCH...

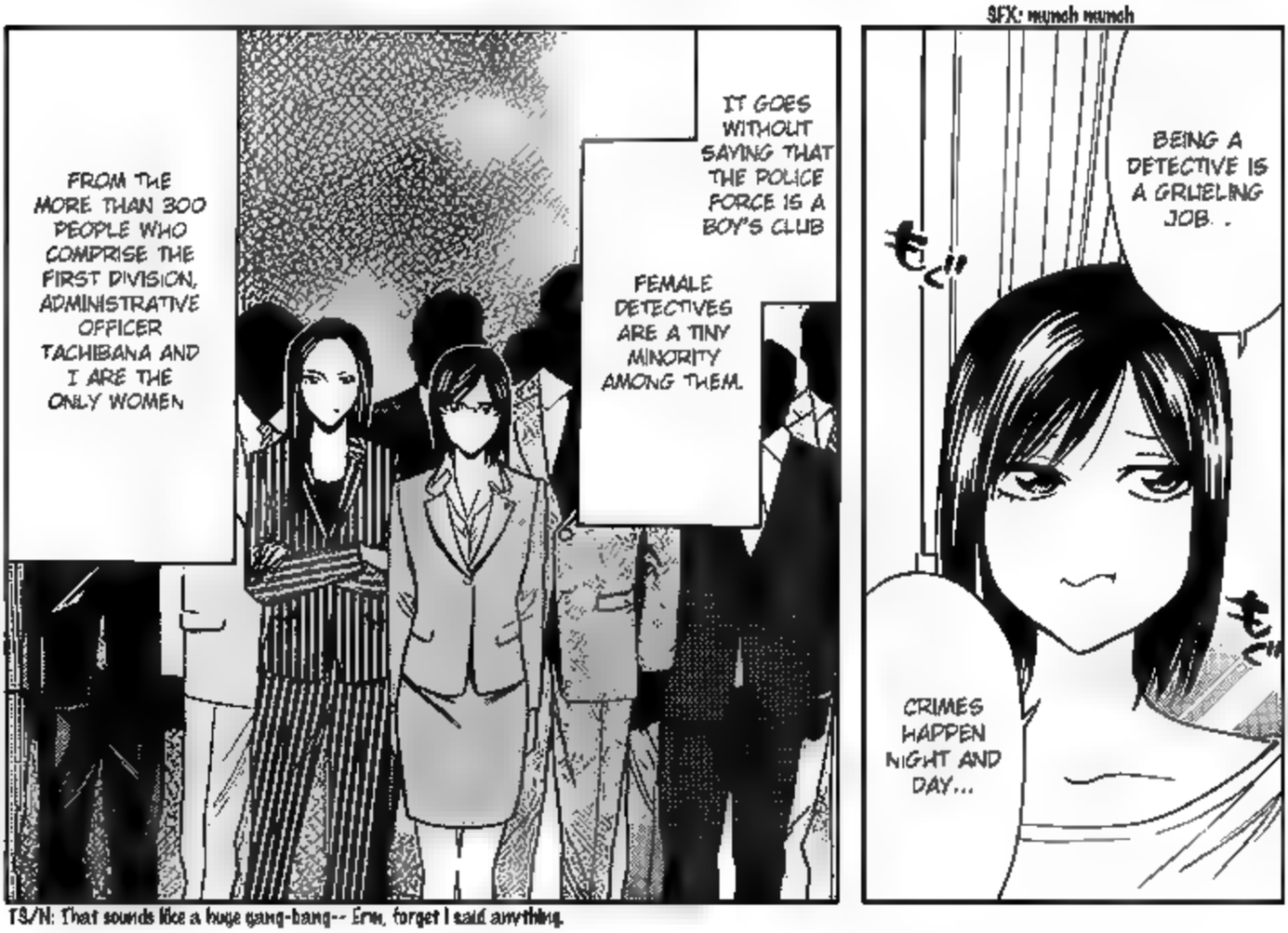

SFX. pouring
ﾌﾟﾙﾌﾟﾙ...



TL/N: References to volume five, when Hibino cooked to Ryuzaki dishes she had learnt to prepare to her father "Fishes for old people" they were called then.



TL/N: Ogura is a sweet adzuki bean paste.

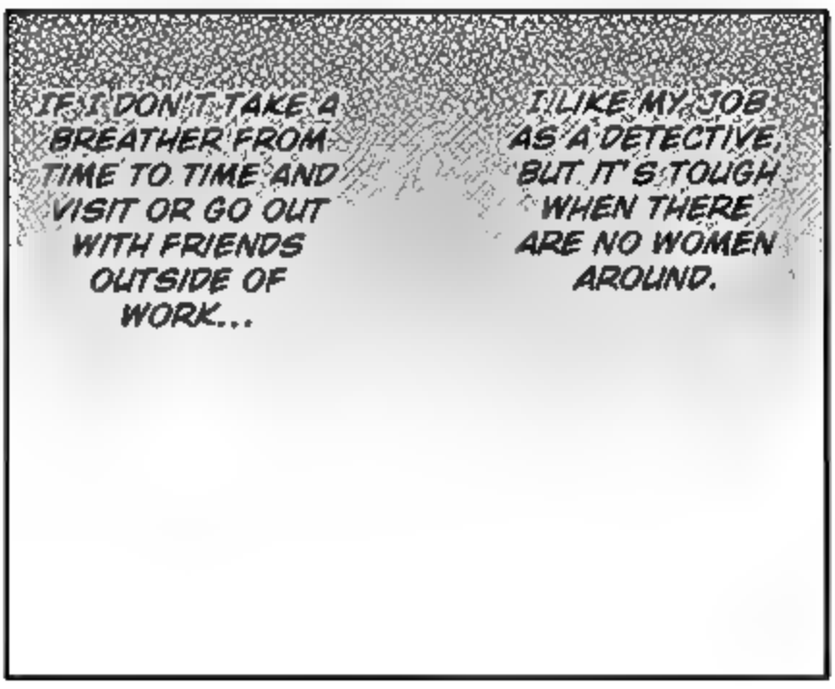

FROM THE MORE THAN 300 PEOPLE WHO COMPRISE THE FIRST DIVISION, ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER TACHIBANA AND I ARE THE ONLY WOMEN
IT GOES WITHOUT SAYING THAT THE POLICE FORCE IS A BOY'S CLUB
FEMALE DETECTIVES ARE A TINY MINORITY AMONG THEM.
SFX: munch munch
BEING A DETECTIVE IS A GRUELING JOB. .
CRIMES HAPPEN NIGHT AND DAY...

TS/N: That sounds like a huge gang-bang-- Erm, forget I said anything.

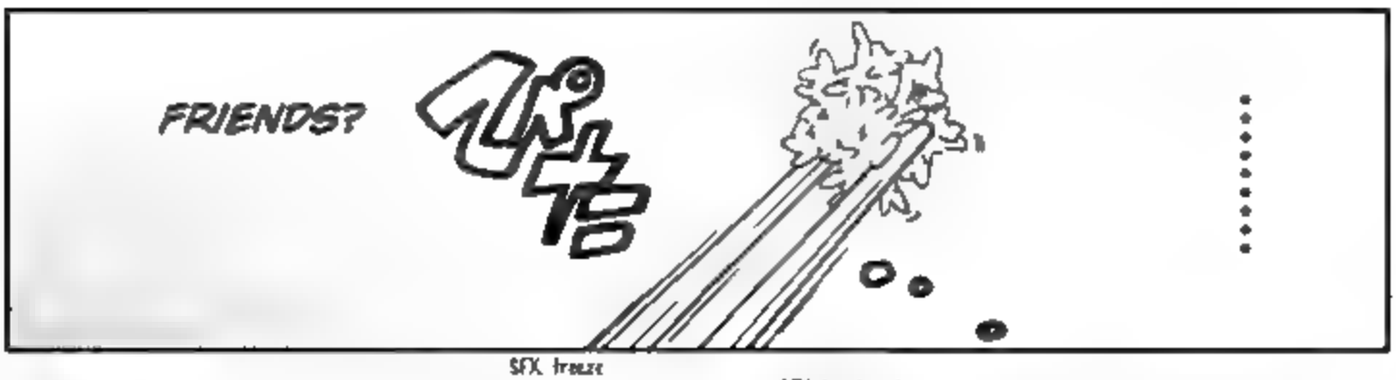
THE SO-CALLED WORLD-FAMOUS FIRST DIVISION IS JUST A BUNCH OF MIDDLE-AGED DETECTIVES WITH LOTS OF INVESTIGATION EXPERIENCE.
I'M SURROUNDED BY MEN.
BESIDES,

AN EXCEPTIONALLY INSENSITIVE, CURLY-HAIRED DETECTIVE!
?

.....
THERE IS JUST ONE PERSON... WHO IS NOT AN OLD MAN.
SFX. crunch

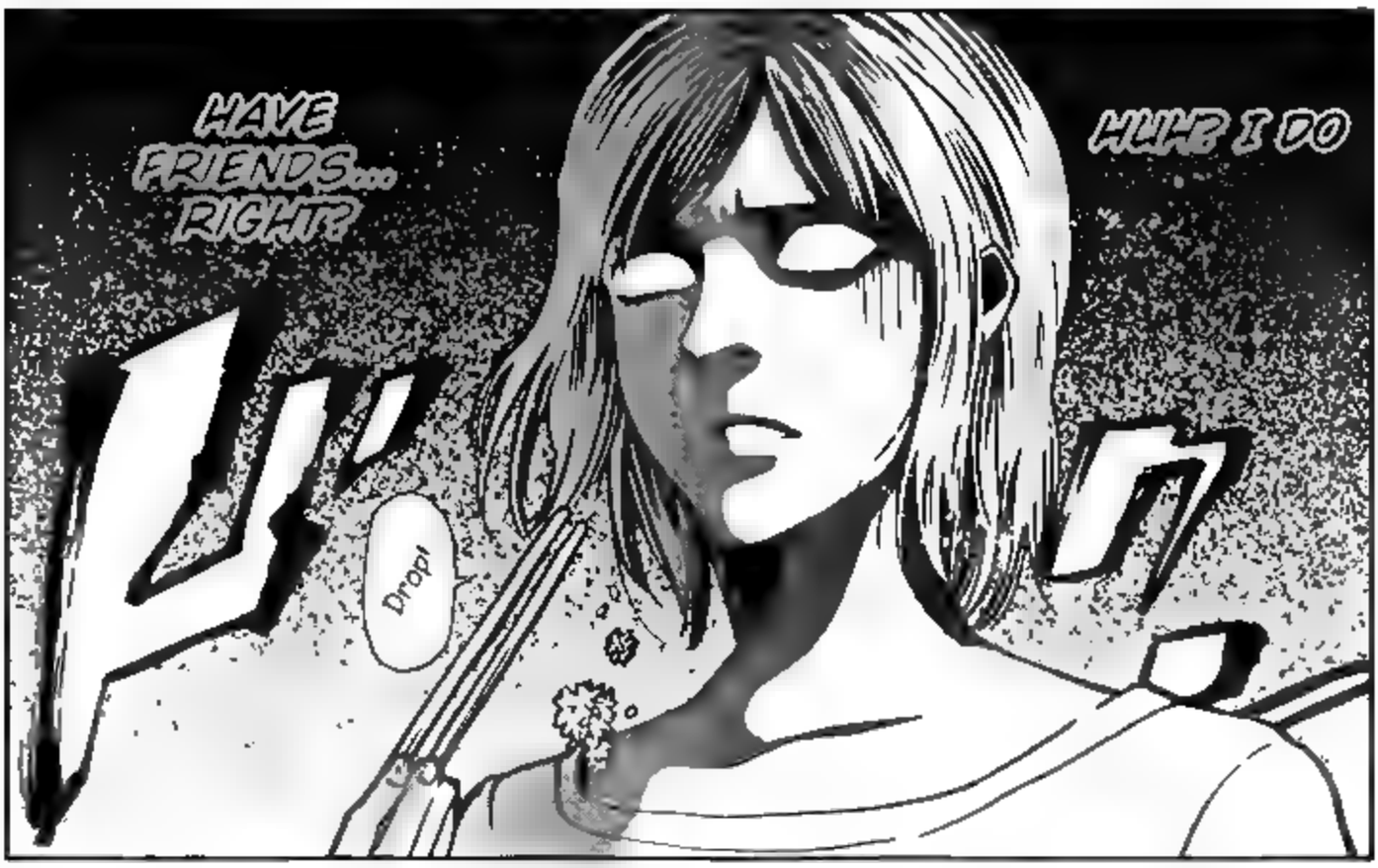

I LIKE MY JOB AS A DETECTIVE, BUT IT'S TOUGH WHEN THERE ARE NO WOMEN AROUND.
IF I DON'T TAKE A BREATHER FROM TIME TO TIME AND VISIT OR GO OUT WITH FRIENDS OUTSIDE OF WORK...

HE IS SUCH A TACTLESS GUY!
HE DOESN'T UNDERSTAND MY FEELINGS AT ALL EVEN THOUGH HE IS MY PARTNER.



SFX freeze

SFX ba-dump!



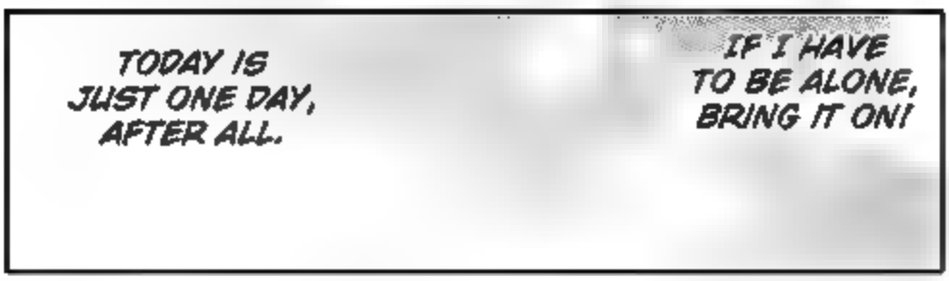
SFX ba-dump

PERHAPS THEY HAVE BEEN AVOIDING ME
BESIDES IF WE ONLY TALK ABOUT WORK EVERYONE WILL MAKE AWKWARD FACES AND THE ATMOSPHERE WON'T GET HEALTHY AND IT

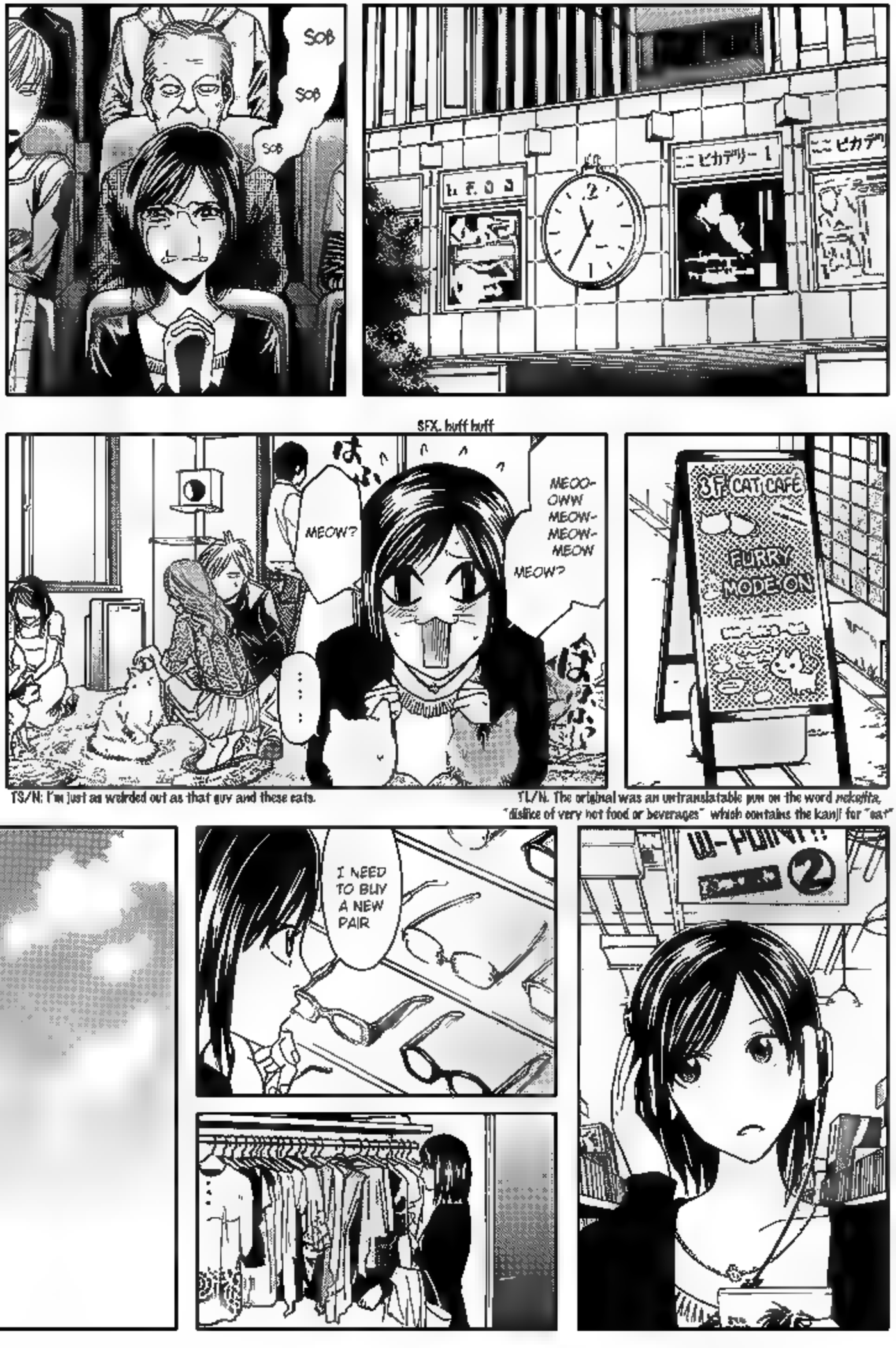
SFX ba-dump ba-dump ba-dump

DELETE MAIL
BEEP.
YOU HAVE MAIL
From Section Chief Mishima
To Hibino Miduki
..et's go have a drink tonight, it's been a long time

I GOT MAIL!
BEEEEP!

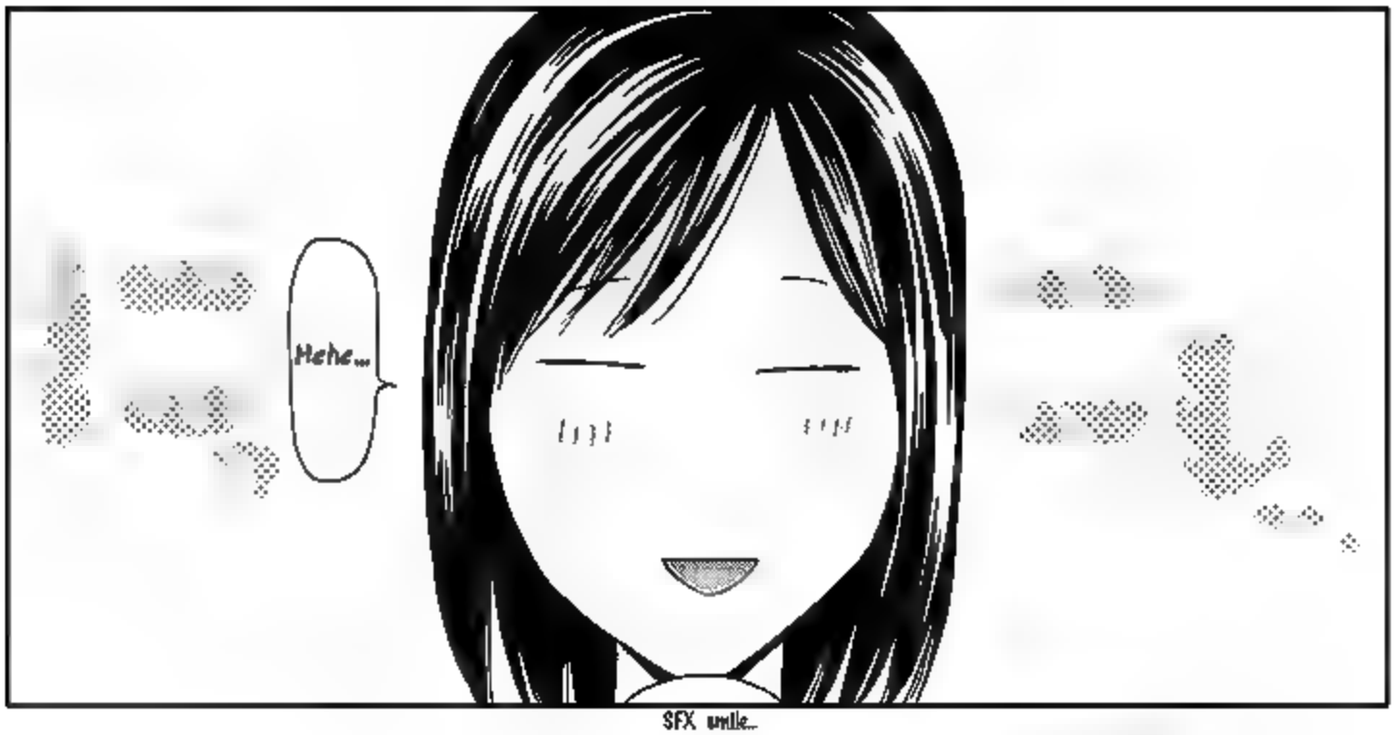

TODAY IS JUST ONE DAY, AFTER ALL.
IF I HAVE TO BE ALONE, BRING IT ON!

Hmmm...
I'LL FORGET WORK AND ENJOY MYSELF!!



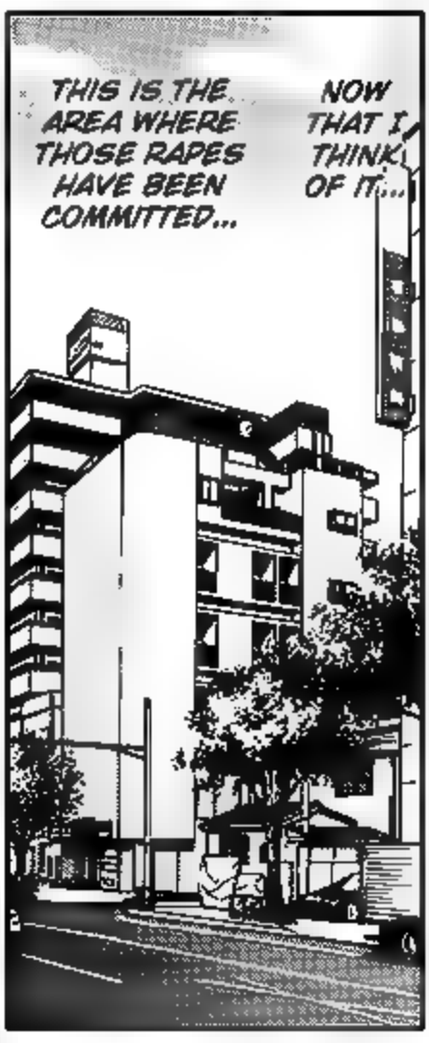
TS/N: I'm just as weirded out as that guy and these eats.

TL/N: The original was an untranslatable pun on the word *nekofita*, "dislike of very hot food or beverages" which contains the kanji for "eat"


Hehe...
SFX smile...

THIS CAFE THAT IS ALL THE RAGE THESE DAYS IS ONLY EMPTY DURING THE WEEK...
LUCKY ME, AS POLICE OFFICERS CAN TAKE BREAKS ON WEEK-DAYS!
♪

THIS PROBABLY MEANS THAT THE PERPE-TRATOR IS SOMEONE FAMILIAR WITH THE AREA.
ALL THREE IN THIS NEIGHBOUR-HOOD ..


THIS IS THE AREA WHERE THOSE RAPES HAVE BEEN COMMITTED...
NOW THAT I THINK OF IT...

NO-NO, I'M THE ONE WHO BUMPED INTO YOU, I'M SORRY!
AAAH! I-I'M SO SORRY! ARE YOUR CLOTHES OKAY!?
NOTHING HAPPENED TO MY CLOTHES, I'M TOTALLY
UWAH!
SERIOUSLY . HERE I AM, THINKING ABOUT CASES.
SFX: bump!
SFX: crash!

FINE...

HIBINO?
... HUH?
ARE YOU PERHAPS

ARIMORI-SENPAI.
... A...

BAR
TONIC
COCKTAIL & STORY
BEEN SO THAT'S WHAT HAP-PENED?
YEAH KATO HAS MARRIED TOO AND I HEARD THE SECOND CHILD IS ON ITS WAY
BUT I HAVE BEEN BUSY AT WORK RECENTLY TOO SO I HAVEN'T SEEN THEM AT A
TODAY BY THE WAY I WAS COMING BACK FROM A CLIENT COMPANY
I'VE SUCCEEDED IN MY FAMILY'S BUSINESS SO I AM THE UNINTERESTING HEIR TO A DRAPER
HOW... DID WE END UP HERE?
TO HAVE ONCE AGAIN MET AND ALL OF A SUDDEN, ARIMORI-SENPAI FROM MY UNIVERSITY DAYS...!
AND TO BE DRINKING WITH HIM IN A BAR...

IF THE ME FROM BACK THEN WERE THE ONE TO SEE HIM NOW !
SHE WOULD BE ECSTATIC AND HER HEART WOULD DO A FLIP AT THIS DEVELOPMENT...

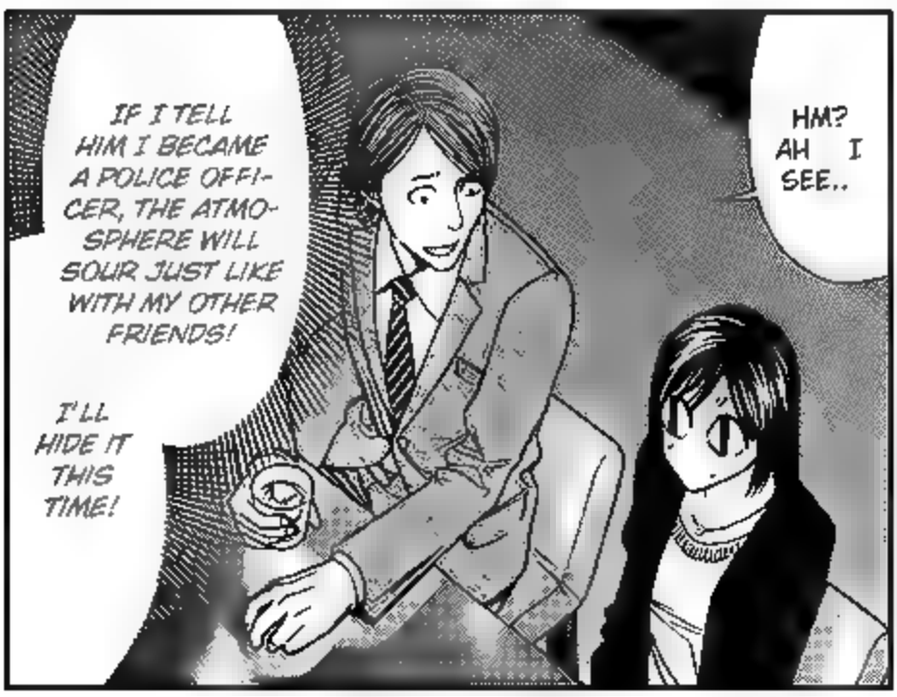
HEY WHAT ARE YOU DOING ?

CLATTER!

SFX. step step step

SFX. tramble tramble

SFX. cradd


IF I TELL HIM I BECAME A POLICE OFFI-CER, THE ATMO-SPHERE WILL SOUR JUST LIKE WITH MY OTHER FRIENDS!
I'LL HIDE IT THIS TIME!
HM? AH I SEE..

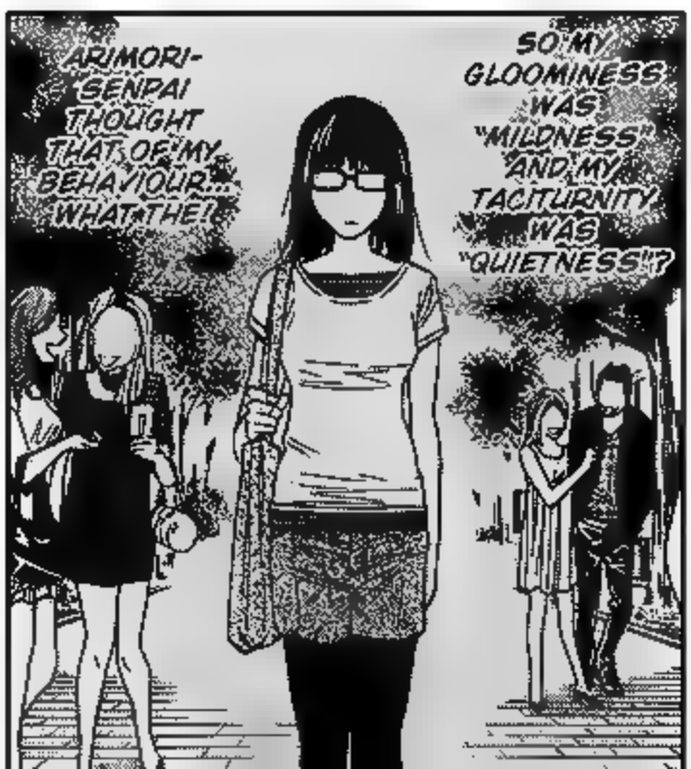
NOW I AM DRAWING MY COURAGE FROM THE ALCOHOL!
?
BECAUSE.. I MISSED THE CHANCE TO ASK YOU SOMETHING WHEN WE WERE AT THE UNIVERSITY, YOU KNOW.
AND I HAVE REGRETTED IT TREMENDOUSLY!
TO HAVE BEEN ABLE TO BUMP INTO YOU AGAIN, HIBINO.
IN ANY CASE, I AM GLAD

TS/N: Geh, so much shoujo this time around...

HOW CAN I SAY IT, YOU LOOKED THE TYPE ONE WOULD WANT TO PROTECT...
AT THE UNIVERSITY, YOU WERE ALWAYS SO MILD AND QUIET...
I'M SORRY TO DROP THIS ON YOU SO SUDDENLY
EH!!

SFX. throb!

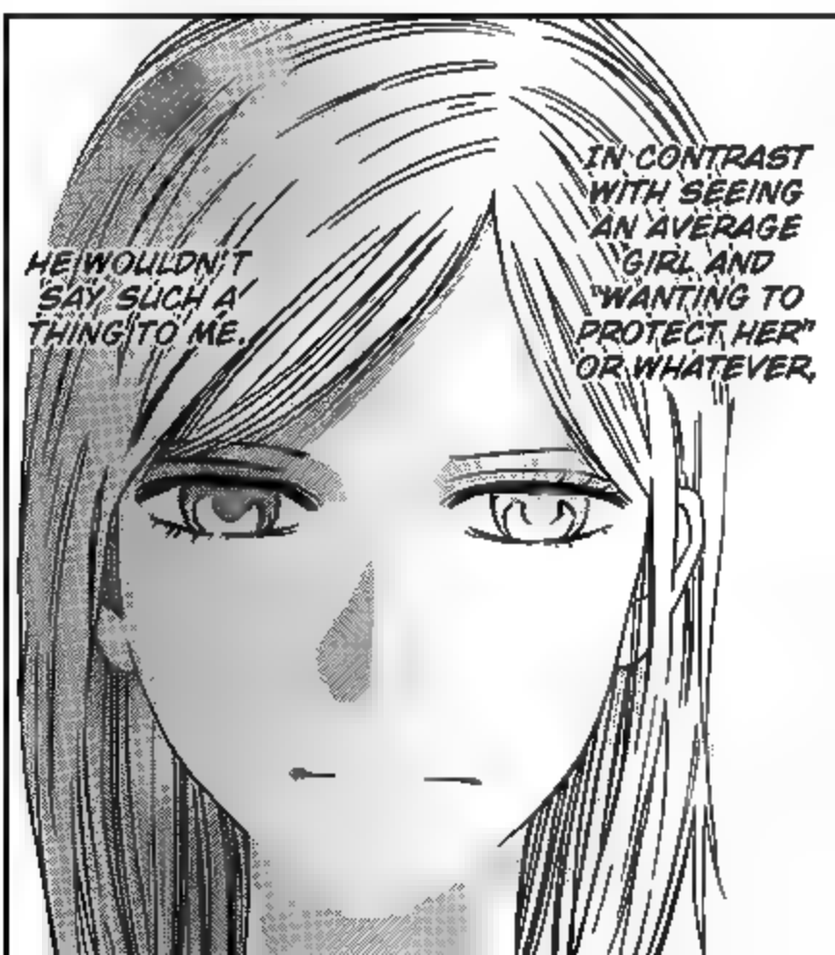
TS/N: NNNNNNN



SFX: gulp

RYUZAKI-SAN, DEFINITELY,

... BUT,



WHAT'S WRONG, ARIMORI-SENPAI?
AH, NO. IT'S JUST THE ICE BALL.
?
WHAT'S WITH THIS?
!
SFX clink
ONE CAN EASILY USE AN ICE PICK TO CHIP AWAY AT A CUBE UNTIL IT BECOMES A PERFECTLY ROUND SPHERE.
THIS ONE WAS POORLY SCULPTED.
I SPEND CASUAL TIME AT BARS
AND OFTEN PUT ICE ROCKS IN MY GLASS, BUT .
AND DOING IT IS A NECESSARY QUALIFICATION FOR A BAR-TENDER, YOU KNOW
THIS ONE IS A TOTAL MESS
A SKILLED BARTENDER WILL NORMALLY SCULPT A MAGNIFICENT ICE BALL, AND YET

TS/N: If you want balls in your drink that bad, you might be in the wrong bar... Jus sayan.

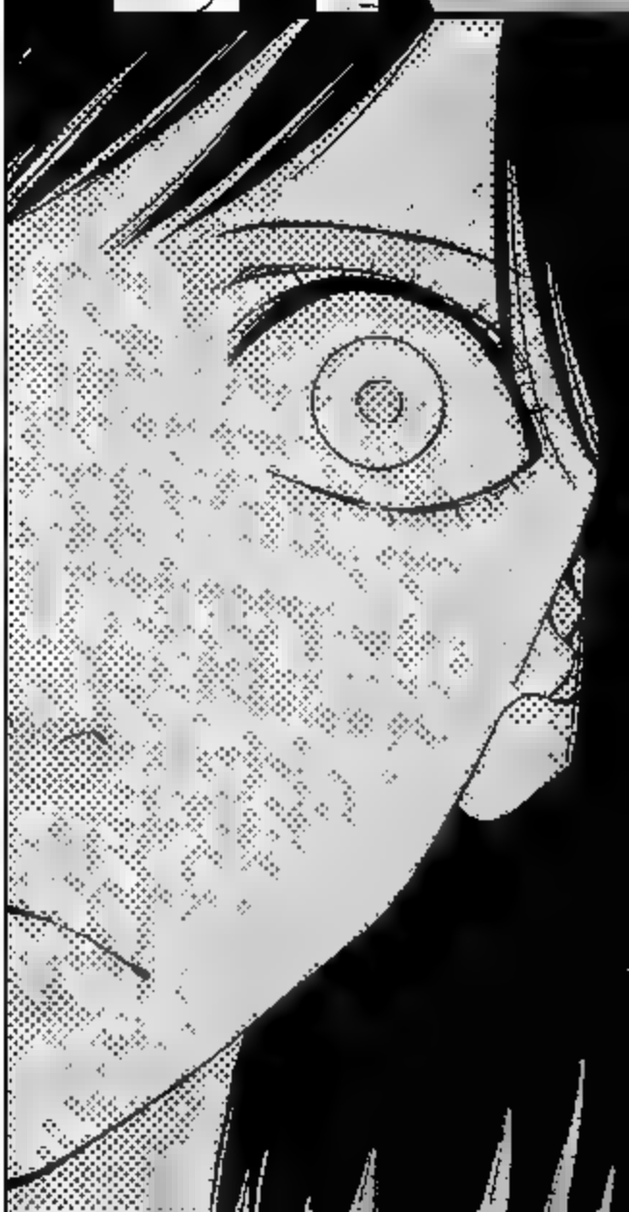
HE SEEMS TO BE DOING BADLY SINCE EARLIER AND LOOKS QUITE CLUMSY..
EE-ER.
HE IS A BEGINNER. OF COURSE, THAT'S IT.
WHA. WHAT DO I DO...

AAAH!
CRASH!

YOU HAVE SCULPTED ICE WITH AN ICE PICK. HAVEN'T YOU? WHAT IF ONE IS CLUMSY AT IT?
ARIMORI-SENPAI

WORKING AS A BAR-TENDER MUST BE TOUGH

SOME NASTY CUTS, THEY ARE!
IT'S FAIRLY DANGEROUS, AND YOU WILL END UP OPENING HOLES IN YOUR HAND!



SO WHAT IF I AM FUGLY?

TS/N: 00

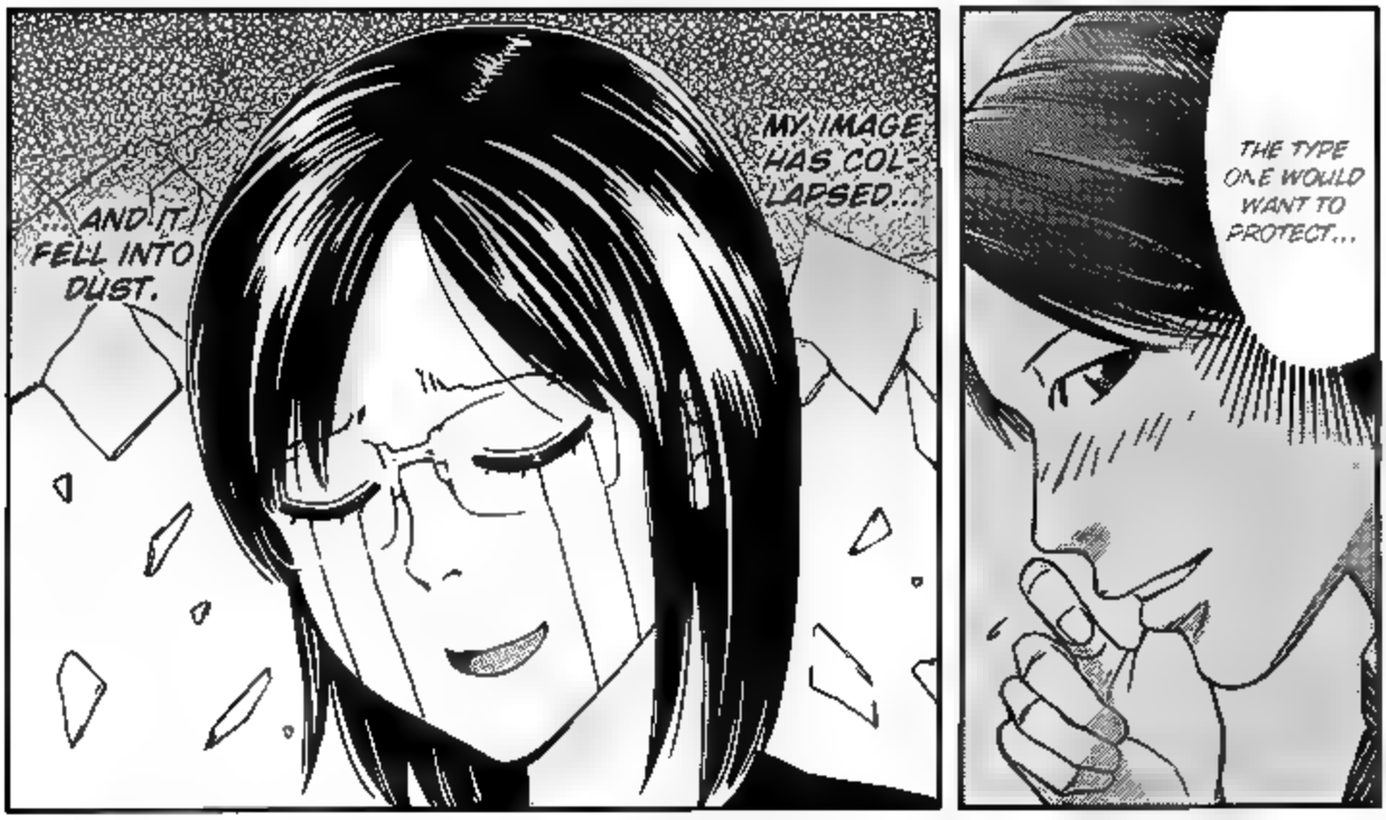
Hm
SFX. grab!
!?
SFX. stomp!

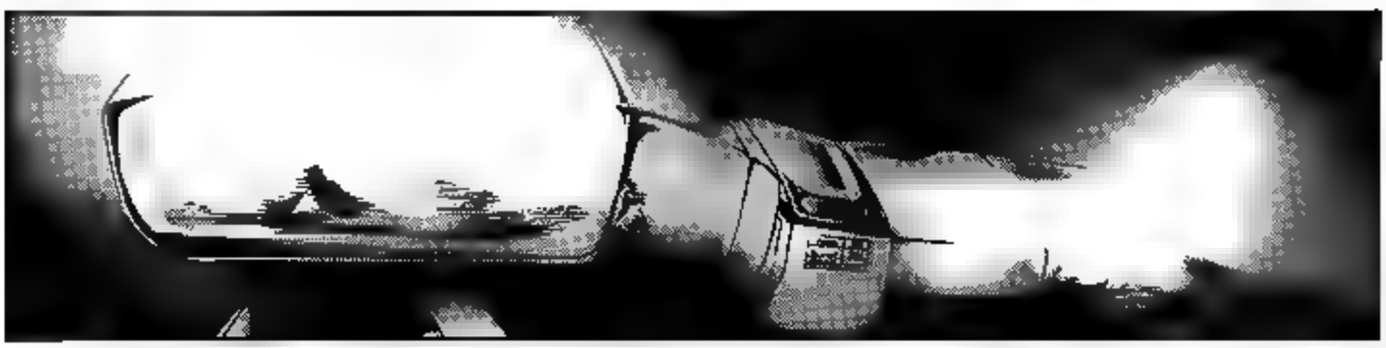
SFX. dash
ERK!?

HI...
HIBI-
NO...
SFX: twitch
OUT
OF MY
WAA-
AY!!
SFX: tremble
GRAB!

KH...
GAH...
ARGH!
YOU CAN'T DISMISS WOMEN JUST BECAUSE THEY ARE UGLY.

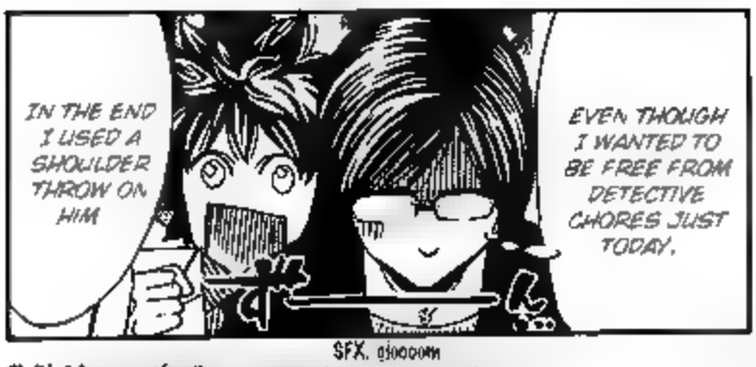
THE GIRLS YOU ATTACKED HAVE PROPER NAMES, AS WELL!
I AM HIBINO MIDUKI, A DETECTIVE IN THE CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION BUREAU OF THE MPD FIRST DIVISION.


...AND IT FELL INTO DUST.
MY IMAGE HAS COLLAPSED...
THE TYPE ONE WOULD WANT TO PROTECT...



サンライスビル
牛丼
YO

SFX: brighten up!



SFX: gooooom

TL/N: More specifically a seoi nage from judo, or so she says.

WITH THIS, MARO, TOO, WILL BE STRUCK DUMB!
NOT ONLY YOU CAPTURED A CRIMINAL OUT OF THE BLUE DURING YOUR DAY OFF, IT WAS THE SERIAL RAPIST, TOO!
... AH, HE WILL, WON'T HE?

IT'S OKAY.
... AH,
!
SO... ABOUT WHAT WE WERE TALKING BACK THERE. .
SFX. stretch
!
AH . AH, HIBINO, THANKS FOR SAVING US
AND I WAS GLAD TO KNOW THAT YOU THOUGHT YOU LIKED ME
I WASN'T TAKING IT SERIOUSLY, SO IT'S OKAY!
IT WAS OLD-TIME TALK,
TS/N: Except for Ikuo, but he's not a man, he's the juggernaut.
AS YOU CAN SEE, I DON'T NEED A MAN WHO WILL PROTECT ME
STILL...
AND I AM SORRY TO HAVE SHATTERED THE IMAGE YOU HAD OF ME, ARIMORI-SENPAI

WHAT I WILL GROW TO LIKE IS A RELATIONSHIP ON EQUAL FOOTING...
?
SOMEONE WHO WILL BE MY PARTNER.

SFX. crowd noises
IN ANY CASE, I'M GOING TO CONDUCT THE QUESTIONING!
ER. BUT THIS IS YOUR DAY OFF, HIBINO-SAN...
YOU'RE TOO CLUMSY TO DO IT ALONE. SO I CAN'T LEAVE IT TO YOU, RYUZAKI-SAN!

IS THAT PERSON AN ACQUAINTANCE OF YOURS, HIBINO-SAN?
...
HEY HEY, WHAT WAS THAT TALK ABOUT?
HM? HM?

SFX. grumble grumble
I'M SORRY
SHUT UP AL-READY!!
HM? HM? WHAT ABOUT THAT TALK OF PERSON YOU WILL GROW TO LI-

ONCE AGAIN I THOUGHT OF MAKING A MOVE ON AN ACQUAINTANCE, BUT...
AM I TOO PUSHY?
.....
... IT'S MY LOSS, I SEE.

SHE WAS CHARMING IN THE OLD DAYS, TOO, BUT...
NOW SHE HAS BECOME A FAR MORE FASCINATING WOMAN.

We still need redrawers!

For this chapter, a hearty welcome to **Night**, a former DT member who came back to clean this!

Now, to business.

One of my fellow team-members told me these recruitment ads are too long.

I guess that is true. My obsession with full disclosure often gets the better over me.

So here are some bullet points:

a) We need redrawers for *Funouhan*, *Destroy and Revolution* and *Demon Assassins*. If we don't get them, the first and third series will stall and the second will be released unredrawn.

b) These series are very difficult. Think of redrawing them as removing a healthy tooth without anaesthesia. That's why our test is so hard.

c) You can bypass the test if you show us PSDs that demonstrate your impressive skills, but if we're not convinced, we will ask you to do the test or show us harder redraws. And if you are approved, it will be conditional on the successful completion of the first chapter. If you pass via the test, there is no such probation period.

And that's it.

Ah, yes, we need a cleaner for *Sprite*, otherwise releases will slow down to a trickle. And we or our friends at Outer World Scanlations need a translator for *Diamond Cut Diamond*.

The Internet, June 30th, 2015.

Wraith.

ouroboros

ouroboros

ouroboros

SFX: sound of rain

... YES.
YO! BROTHER FROM THE EAST...
YOU'RE QUITE DILIGENT TO STAND AT WAITING LIKE THIS.
MY BRAND-NEW SUIT IS A MESS...
DAMN THIS SHITTY RAIN!
SFX: splash!

... WATCH YOUR MOUTH, FUKUNAGA.
ALTHOUGH WE'RE A FRINGE GROUP, THIS IS STILL A HEAD HOUSE, I SUPPOSE.
STILL, GREETING THE DEPUTY LEADERS AND SEEING THEM OFF, TIME AND TIME AGAIN HAS BEEN A PAIN.

HM? WHAT HAVEN'T I HEARD...

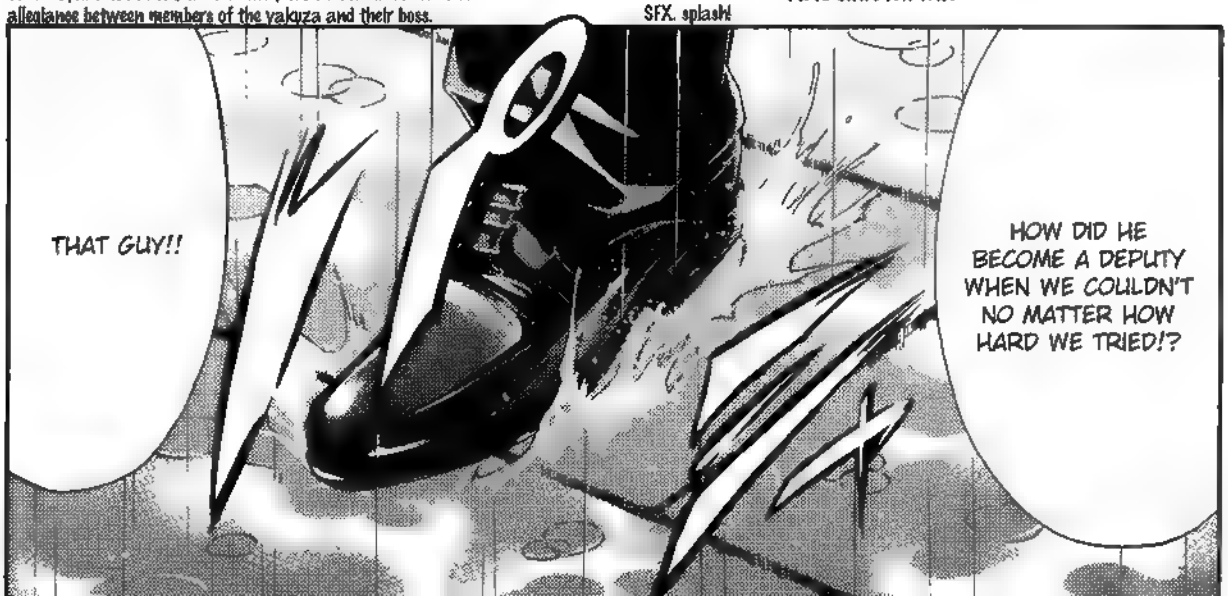
?
THANK YOU FOR YOUR HARD WORK!

YOU... HAVEN'T HEARD ABOUT IT?
EVEN SO, WHAT IS TODAY'S SUMMONING TO THE MAIN HOUSEHOLD ABOUT?
AFTER ALL, THE MONTHLY MEETING OF THE ORGANI-SATION HAS ONLY JUST ENDED.
SFX: sound of rain

TL/N: Oyako-sakazuki, the ceremony that seals direct bonds of allegiance between members of the yakuza and their boss.

TS/N. OMFG DAT FACE

SFX. splash!

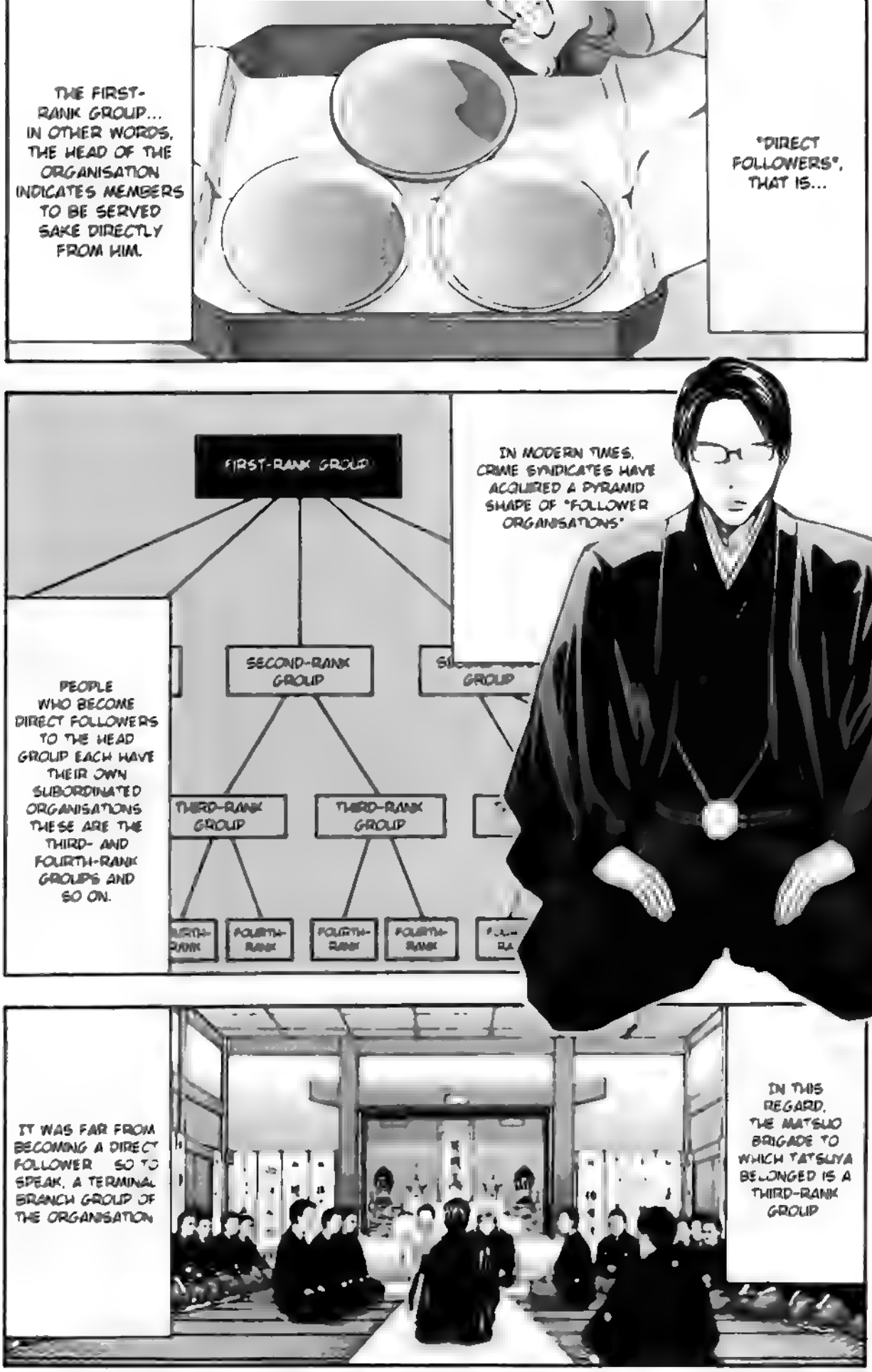


第6話

CHAPTER 75: MANOEUVRING!

CREATION OF THE DANNO FAMILY, DIRECT FOLLOWER OF THE ABIKO GROUP.

我


THE FIRST-RANK GROUP... IN OTHER WORDS, THE HEAD OF THE ORGANISATION INDICATES MEMBERS TO BE SERVED SAKE DIRECTLY FROM HIM.
"DIRECT FOLLOWERS", THAT IS...
FIRST-RANK GROUP
IN MODERN TIMES, CRIME SYNDICATES HAVE ACQUIRED A PYRAMID SHAPE OF "FOLLOWER ORGANISATIONS"
PEOPLE WHO BECOME DIRECT FOLLOWERS TO THE HEAD GROUP EACH HAVE THEIR OWN SUBORDINATED ORGANISATIONS THESE ARE THE THIRD- AND FOURTH-RANK GROUPS AND SO ON.
SECOND-RANK GROUP
THIRD-RANK GROUP
THIRD-RANK GROUP
IT WAS FAR FROM BECOMING A DIRECT FOLLOWER SO TO SPEAK, A TERMINAL BRANCH GROUP OF THE ORGANISATION
IN THIS REGARD, THE MATSUO BRIGADE TO WHICH TATSUYA BELONGED IS A THIRD-RANK GROUP

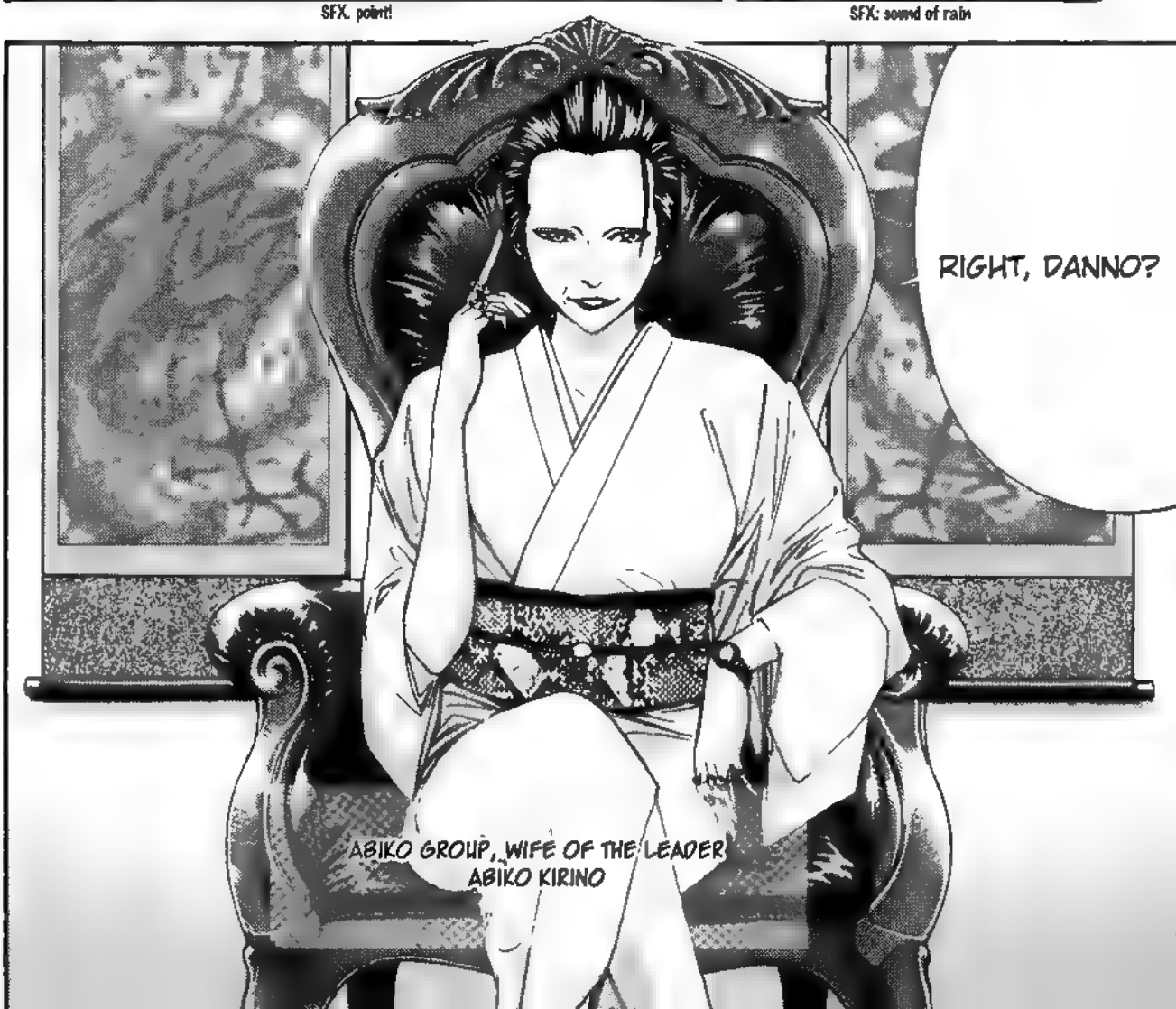
FOR A MERE THIRD-RANK GROUP, YOUNG LEADER LIKE TATSUYA TO BECOME A DIRECT FOLLOWER...

IT IS AN INCREDIBLE ACHIEVEMENT.
IS UNTHINKABLE IN THE WORLD OF ORGANISED CRIME.

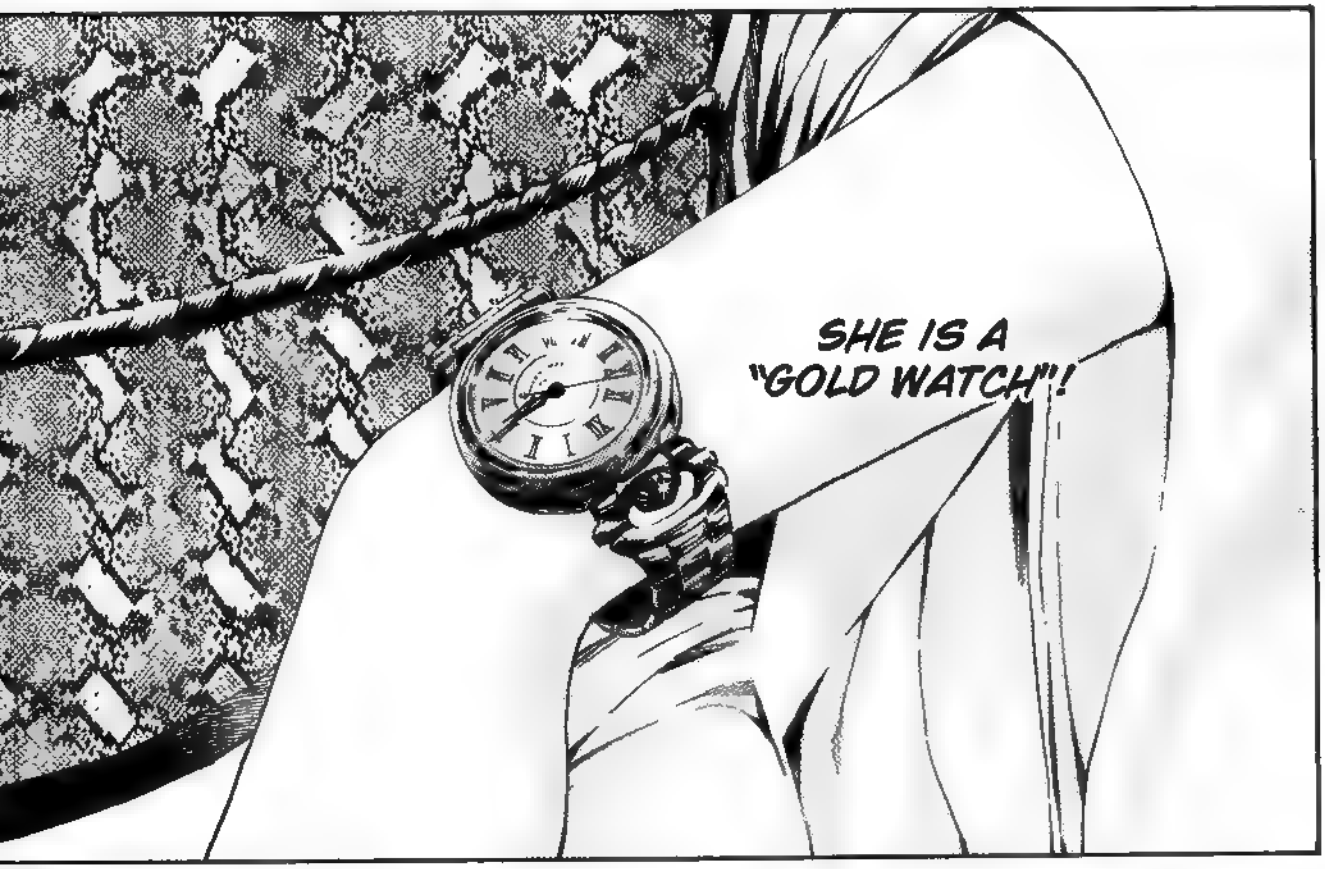
DOESN'T MAKE THEM HAPPY AT ALL.
稲
竹
浜
DESPITE TATSUYA'S GREAT SKILL AT COLLECTING MONEY FOR THE ORGANISATION, FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF THE OTHER DIRECT FOLLOWERS, THE NOTION OF A YOUNG SUB-LEADER WITHOUT A LONG CAREER OF SERVICES RENDERED RISING TO THEIR OWN STATUS

SFX. point!

SFX: sound of rain

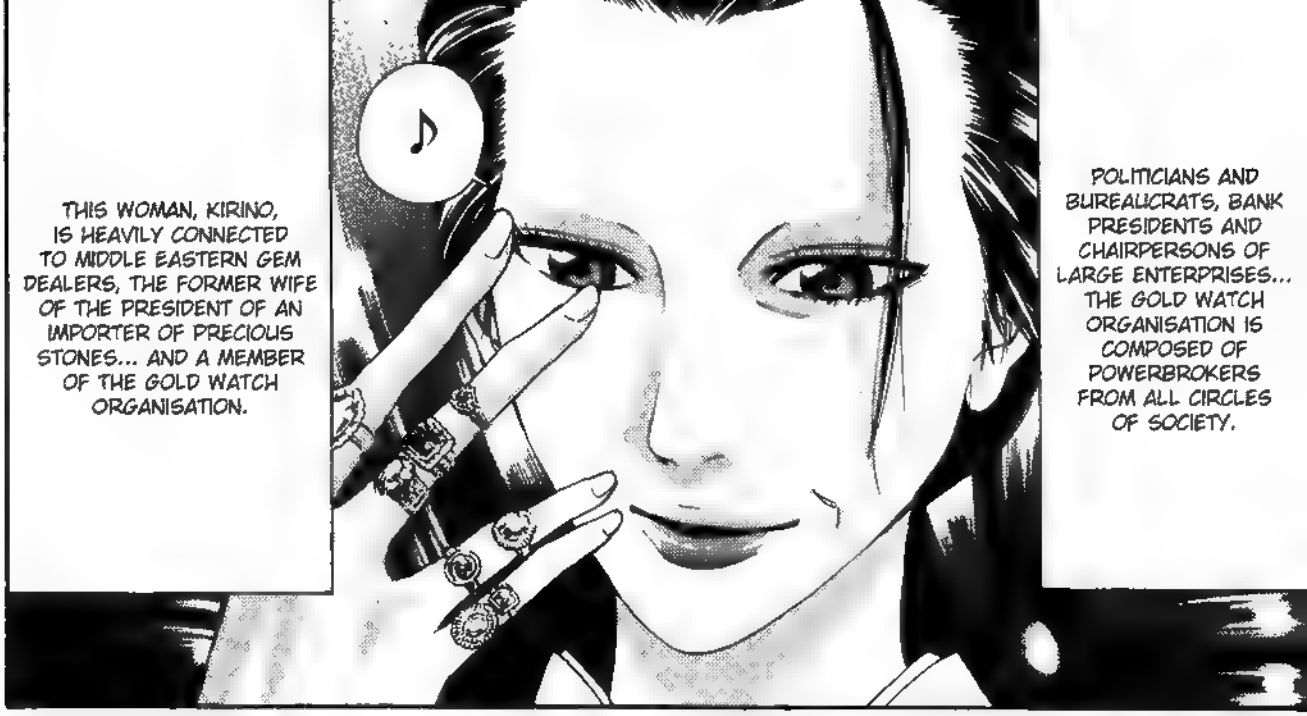


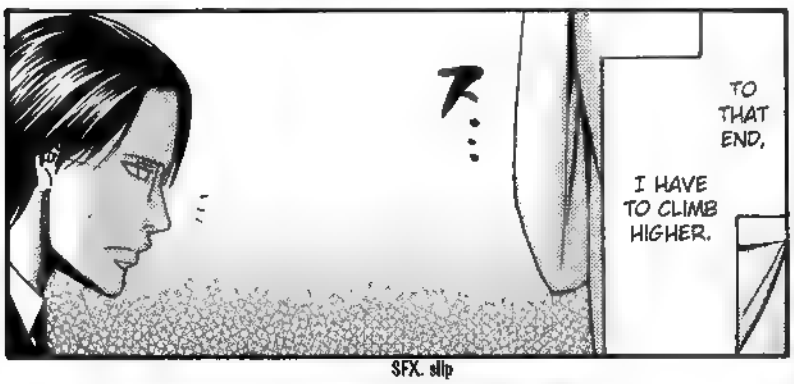
...THIS WOMAN IS THE REASON WHY, FROM AMONG THE UNDERWORLD ORGANISATIONS, I CHOSE THE KANTO ABIKO GROUP.
I SHALL DEVOTE MYSELF TO MEET YOUR EXPECTATIONS, MILADY.



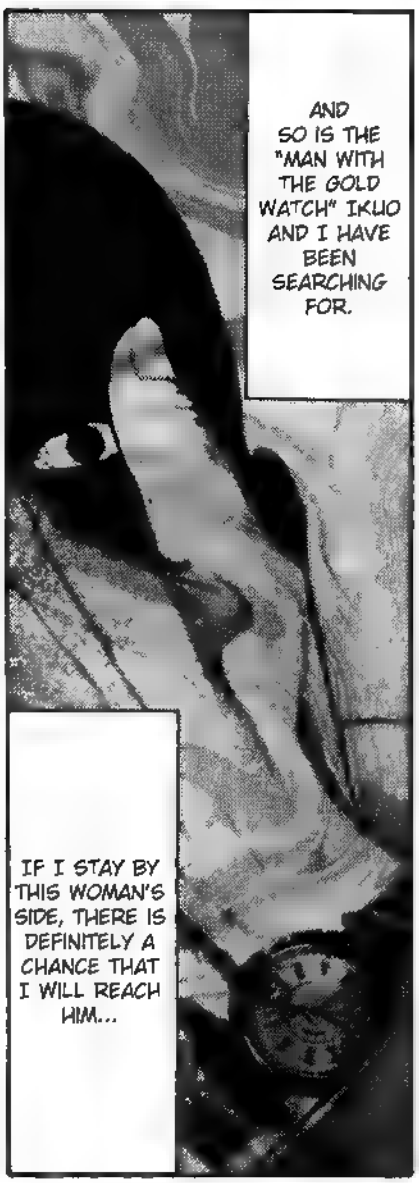
THE "GOLD WATCH ORGANISATION".

IN THE TOP SPHERES OF HIGHER EDUCATION, IN THE FIRST-RANK UNIVERSITIES, A SELECT GROUP OF ELITE STUDENTS ARE AWARDED A "GOLD WATCH"... AND THOSE WHO POSSESS ONE ARE COLLECTIVELY CALLED


THIS WOMAN, KIRINO, IS HEAVILY CONNECTED TO MIDDLE EASTERN GEM DEALERS, THE FORMER WIFE OF THE PRESIDENT OF AN IMPORTER OF PRECIOUS STONES... AND A MEMBER OF THE GOLD WATCH ORGANISATION.
POLITICIANS AND BUREAUCRATS, BANK PRESIDENTS AND CHAIRPERSONS OF LARGE ENTERPRISES... THE GOLD WATCH ORGANISATION IS COMPOSED OF POWERBROKERS FROM ALL CIRCLES OF SOCIETY.


TO THAT END,
I HAVE TO CLIMB HIGHER.
SFX. slip

... WHAT WOULD THAT BE, MILADY?
YOU... UNDERSTAND IT, DON'T YOU? THE FOREMOST REASON YOU HAVE BEEN EXTRAORDINARILY ELEVATED TO DIRECT FOLLOWER...


AND SO IS THE "MAN WITH THE GOLD WATCH" IKUO AND I HAVE BEEN SEARCHING FOR.
IF I STAY BY THIS WOMAN'S SIDE, THERE IS DEFINITELY A CHANCE THAT I WILL REACH HIM...

LICK
I AM THE WIFE OF THE LEADER OF THE ABIKO GROUP OF KANTO, AN ORGANISATION THAT CONTROLS FOUR THOUSAND PEOPLE.
BA
DU
MP
I AM NOT SATISFIED UNLESS I LAY MY HANDS ON EVERYTHING THAT IS BEAUTIFUL..
BE IT PRECIOUS STONES... OR PEOPLE... GOT IT?
♪

SFX. flutter

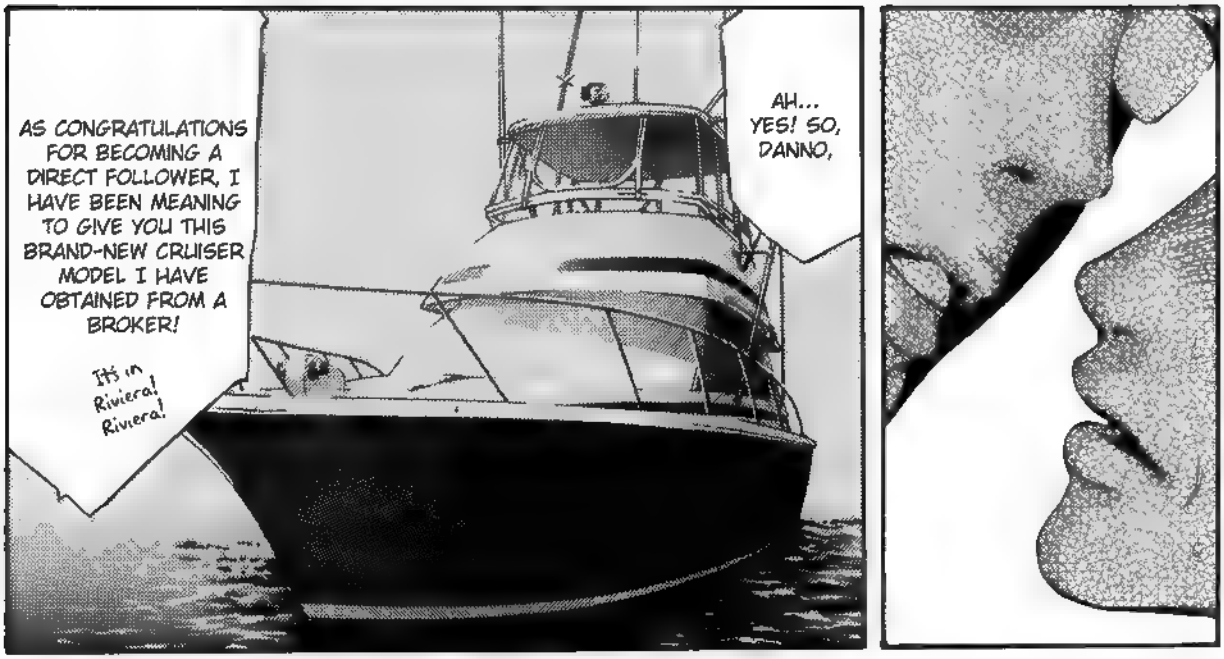
HE... HE HAS...

STOLEN A KISS STRAIGHT FROM MY LIPS!!

SFX: flutter flutter flutter

S... STOLEN...

THIS YOUNG MAN, STILL IN HIS TENDER YEARS... FROM ME, THE DE FACTO LEADER OF THE ABIKO GROUP...

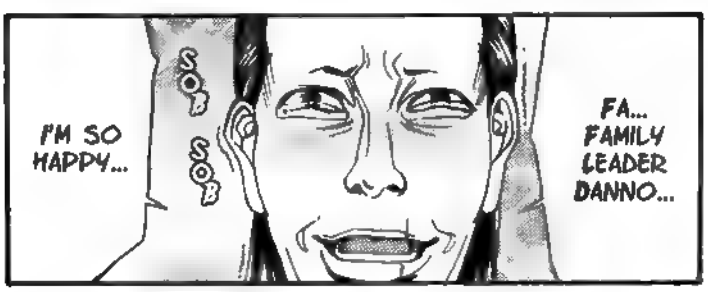

AS CONGRATULATIONS FOR BECOMING A DIRECT FOLLOWER, I HAVE BEEN MEANING TO GIVE YOU THIS BRAND-NEW CRUISER MODEL I HAVE OBTAINED FROM A BROKER!
It's in Riviera! Riviera!
AH... YES! SO, DANNO,

TS/N: I mean no disrespect, lady, but I'm 120% sure the waves is not what you want to ride.

GOOD IDEA
♡
...SOONER OR LATER, I'LL FIND THE CONNECTION BETWEEN THIS WOMAN AND THE "MAN WITH THE GOLD WATCH".
I'LL USE YOU TO MY ADVANTAGE, AS MUCH AS I CAN...

LET'S RETURN TO OUR NEW OFFICE.
YES, SIR.
FUKAMACHI.

BECAUSE THE POSITION OF FAMILY LEADER WILL TAKE ALL MY TIME...
AH... THAT...
FAMILY LEADER DANNO! EXCUSE ME.
I'LL DO THE TURNAROUND WITH THE CAR STRAIGHTAWAY, YOUNG HEAD... AH, NO,


I'M SO HAPPY...
SOB SOB
FA... FAMILY LEADER DANNO...

I HAVE LEFT THE YOUNG HEAD POSITION OF THE MATSUO BRIGADE TO YOU, FUKAMACHI.

!
HMPH! HEY, DANNO, IS YOUR NEW ORGANISATION THE SUNFLOWER FAMILY? OR IS IT THE DANDELION FAMILY?

I'VE SHED QUITE A FEW TEARS OVER IT, YOU KNOW.
TO THINK THAT FROM TODAY ONWARDS I AM GOING TO BE ON THE SAME LEVEL AS A SHITTY BRAT LIKE YOU...

SFX. wham!
SHUT YOUR TRAP, STOOGE!!

DASH
FA... OLD MAN KAGEYAMA, WHAT ARE YOU SAYING TO FAMILY LEADER DANNO...

TCHA
AAN!

.....

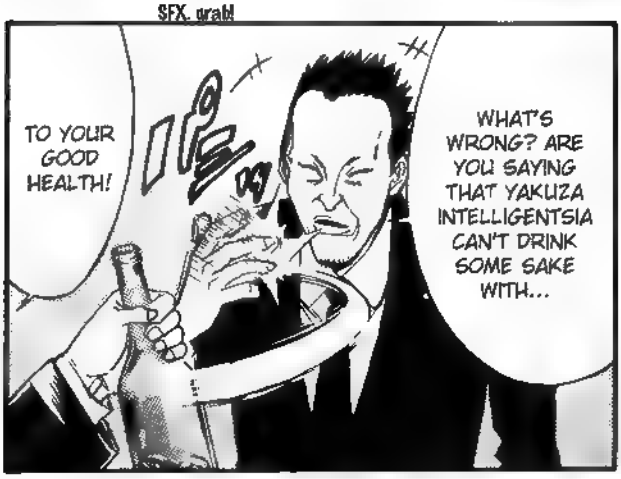
ARE YOU REFUSING THE CONGRATULATORY SAKE FROM A FELLOW DIRECT FOLLOWER? IS THAT RIGHT, DANNO?
WAI... IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO DRINK THAT IN ONE GULP!

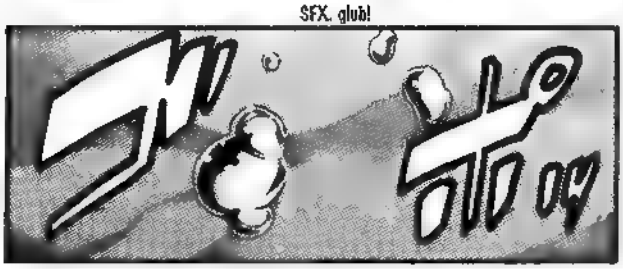
HERE'S SOME SAKE AS CONGRATULATIONS TO THE LEADER OF THE DANNO FAMILY.
DRINK IT IN ONE GULP. HERE, LOOK.

YOU WILL END UP DISCARDED BY THE MADAM!
IF YOU DON'T EVEN HAVE THE VIGOUR TO DRINK SOME PIT-VIPER SAKE,

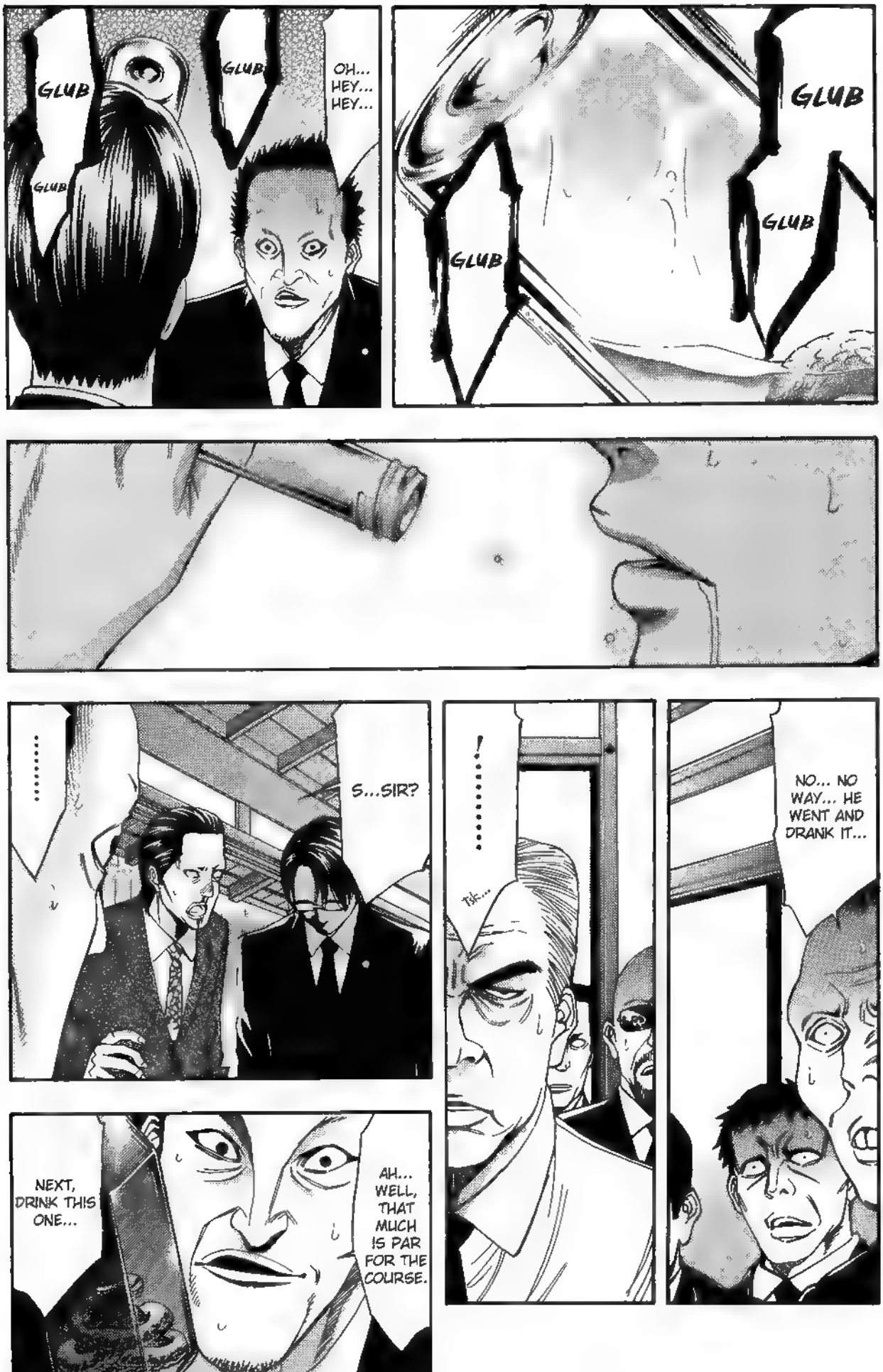
KH!
YAKUZA INTELLI-GENTSIA, JUST BECAUSE YOU HAVE A LITTLE TALENT EARNING MONEY, YOU GO GIVING YOUR-SELVES AIRS OF SUPERIORITY...

!


SFX. grab!
TO YOUR GOOD HEALTH!
WHAT'S WRONG? ARE YOU SAYING THAT YAKUZA INTELLIGENTSIA CAN'T DRINK SOME SAKE WITH...


SFX. glub!

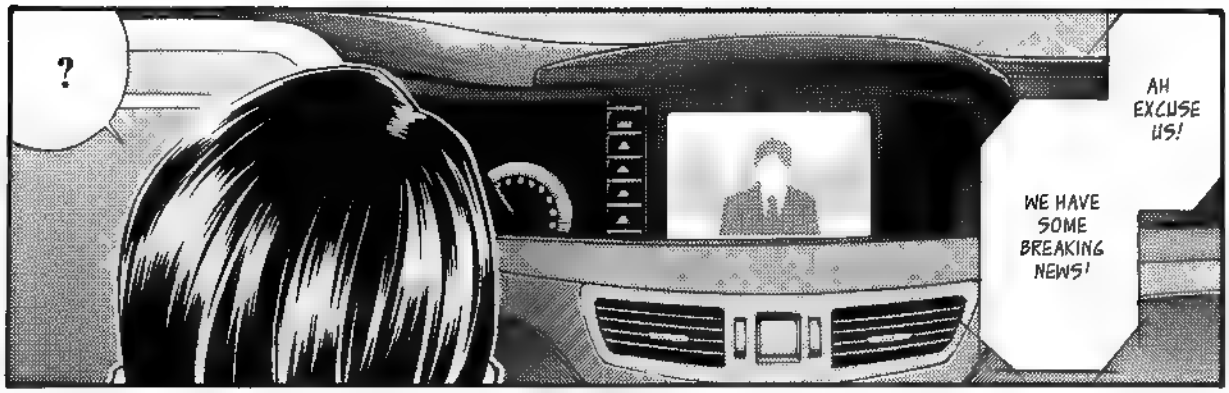
TS/N: CHUG! CHUG! CHUG. CHUG! CHUG! CHUG!


GLUB
GLUB
GLUB
OH... HEY... HEY...
GLUB
GLUB
GLUB
.....
S...SIR?
!.....
TSK...
NO... NO WAY... HE WENT AND DRANK IT...
NEXT, DRINK THIS ONE...
AH... WELL, THAT MUCH IS PAR FOR THE COURSE.

SFX: cradd

MONEY, WOMEN, MAKING A QUICK BUCK, IF THAT IS ALL YOU ARE GOOD FOR,
YOUR SUBORDINATES WILL NEVER FOLLOW YOU, YOU FOOL!!
ARGH...
GAH...
SFX. plop!
SFX. wobble
SFX: pouring rain
FUKA-MACHI.
LET'S GO.
Y-YES, SIR!

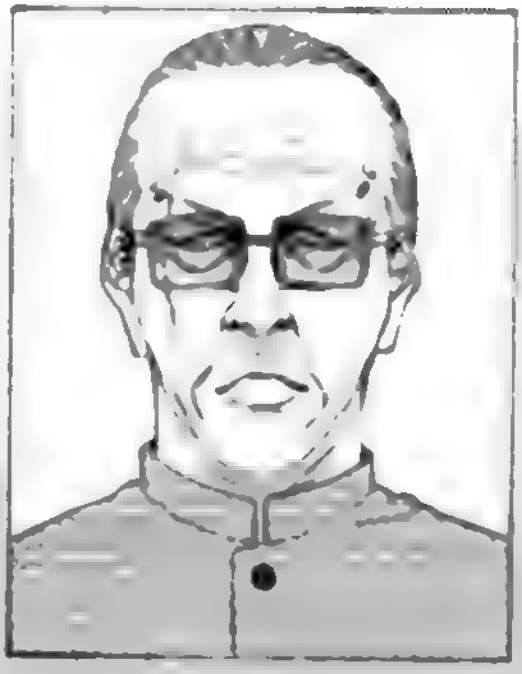
REGARDING THE FLIGHT ON THE PROPOSAL HAS MET THIS TIME, THE OPPOSITION HAS DECIDED TO SUBMIT A FORMAL MOTION OF NO CONFIDENCE AGAINST THE ENTIRE CABINET.
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, SIR?
BU JUST MY HEAD IS RINGING


?
AH EXCUSE US!
WE HAVE SOME BREAKING NEWS!

!!
THIS JUST IN FROM THE TOKYO METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT.
"A SUSPECT HAS BEEN IDENTIFIED FOR THE SNIPING OF THE MPD COMMISSIONER-GENERAL FIVE MONTHS AGO."

JUST DO IT ALREADY!
EH? BUT YOU TOLD ME TO BE QUIET BECAUSE YOUR HEAD WAS...
FUKAMACHI! TURN UP THE VOLUME OF THE TV!

WERE THE HEAD OF THE BROAD-AREA DESIGNATED CRIMINAL ORGANISATION, THE YAMASHIRO SYNDICATE, YAMASHIRO SHIGEYOSHI, AND EIGHT ORGANISATION MEMBERS



ACCORDING TO THE ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE MPD, THE PERPETRATOR OF SUPERINTENDENT-GENERAL KITAGAWA'S SNIPING

YAMASHIRO SYNDICATE

YAMASHIRO SHIGEYOSHI, HEAD

THE PERPETRATORS OF THE SNIPING WERE INDEED THE YAMASHIRO SYNDICATE...

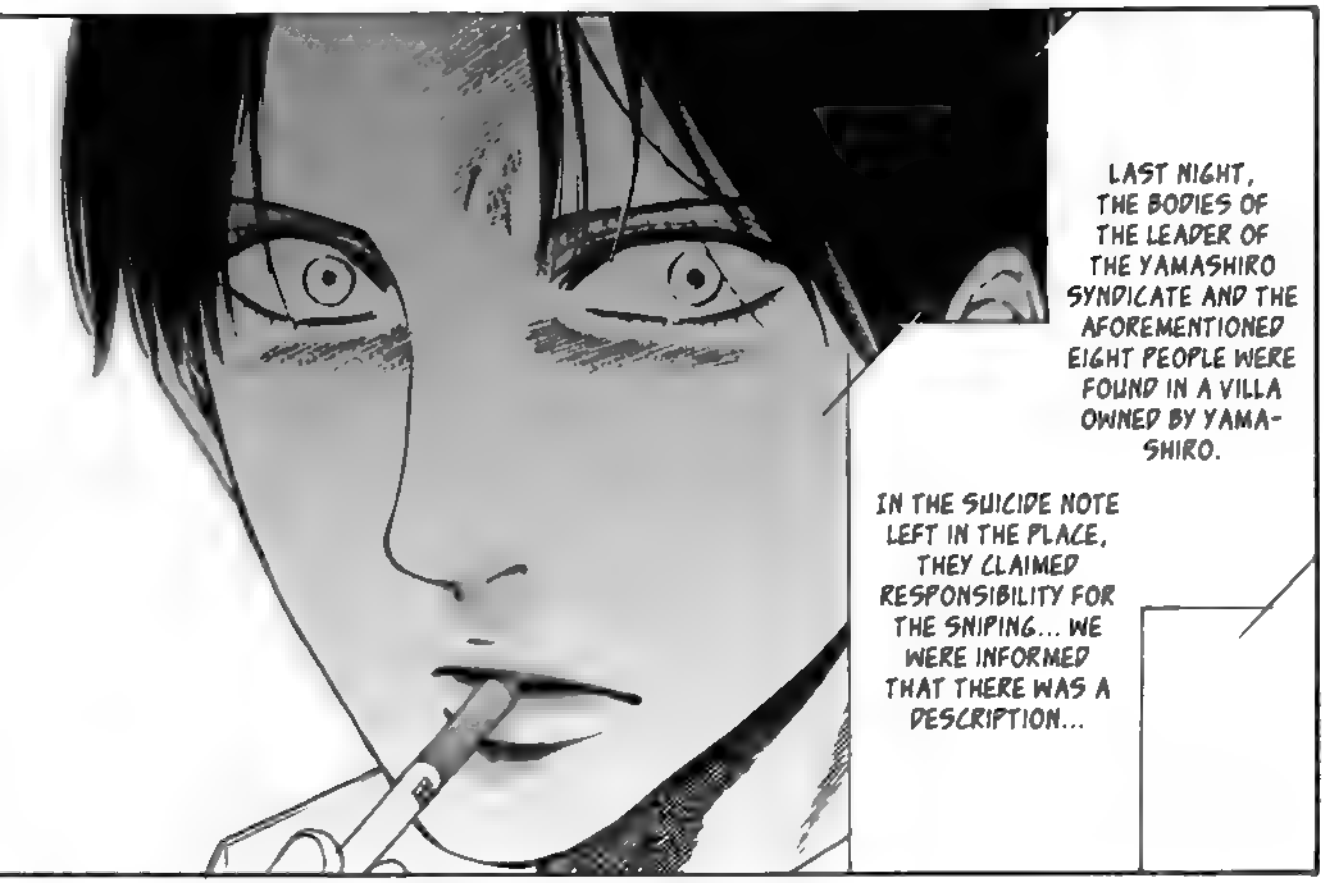
... ACCORDING TO THAT FORMER HOST WHO HAD BEEN A MEMBER OF YAMASHIRO, MITSUOMI...

HUH?

IT... IT WAS YAMA-SHIRO!?

AND AS THE DETAILS OF THIS CASE COME TO LIGHT...

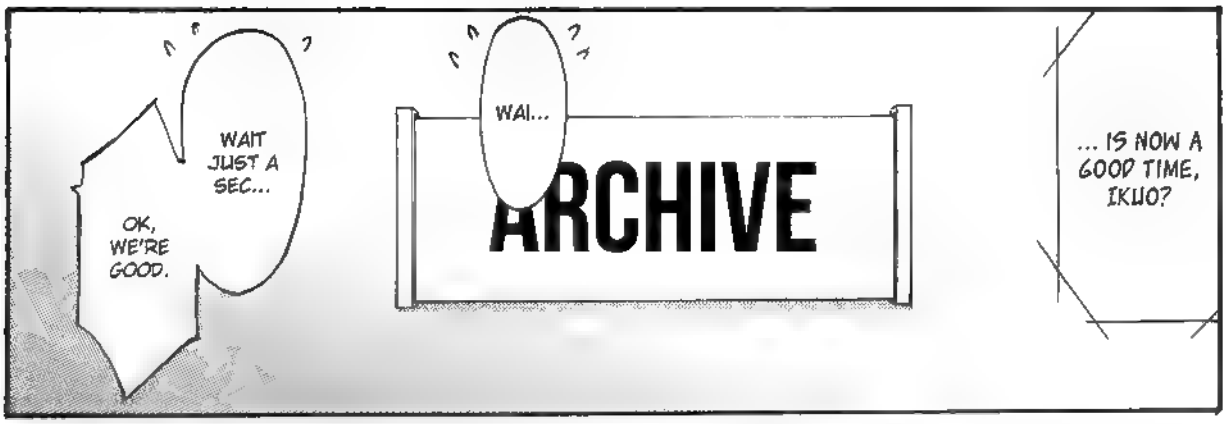
THE YAMASHIRO SYNDICATE HAS BEEN TAKING ITS ORDERS FROM THE POLICE..
I KNEW IT.
...AND AS HIS STORY WENT, BEHIND YAMA-SHIRO WAS THE POLICE...


LAST NIGHT, THE BODIES OF THE LEADER OF THE YAMASHIRO SYNDICATE AND THE AFOREMENTIONED EIGHT PEOPLE WERE FOUND IN A VILLA OWNED BY YAMA-SHIRO.
IN THE SUICIDE NOTE LEFT IN THE PLACE, THEY CLAIMED RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE SNIPING... WE WERE INFORMED THAT THERE WAS A DESCRIPTION...

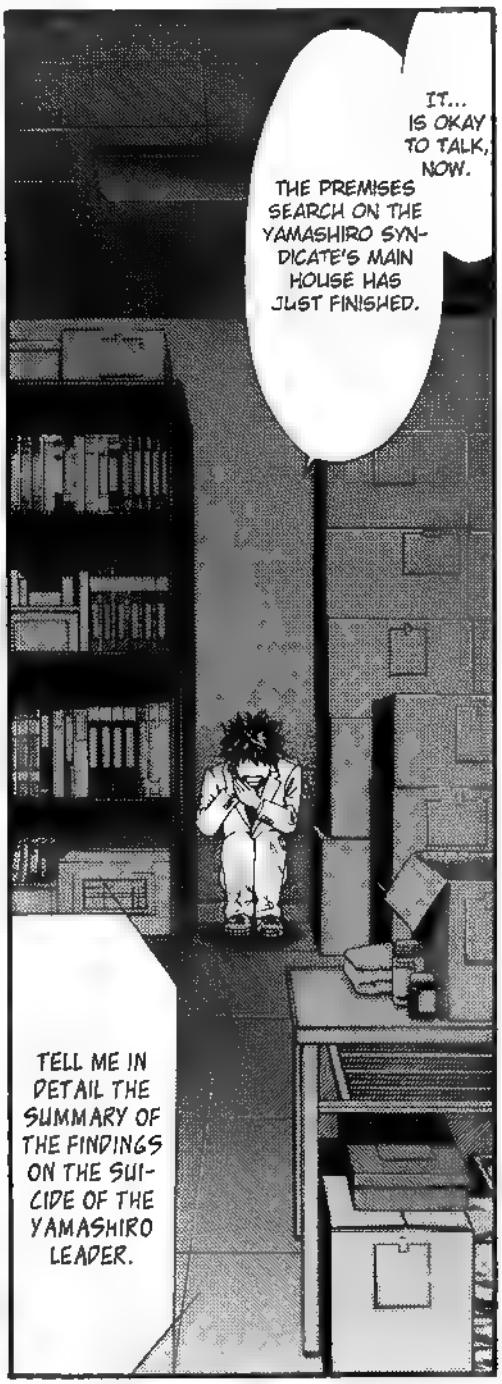
SHH

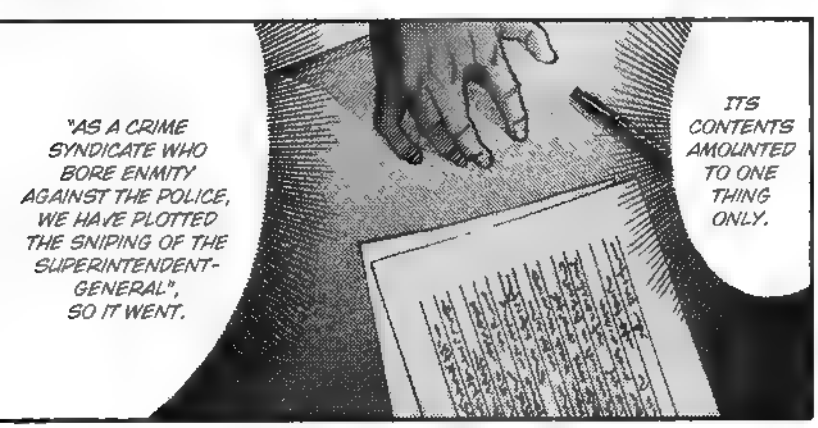
CLAIMED RESPONSIBILITY
THE HEAD OF YAMASHIRO...

NO WAY... DID THOSE GUYS...?


WAIT JUST A SEC...
OK, WE'RE GOOD.
WAI...
ARCHIVE
... IS NOW A GOOD TIME, IKUO?

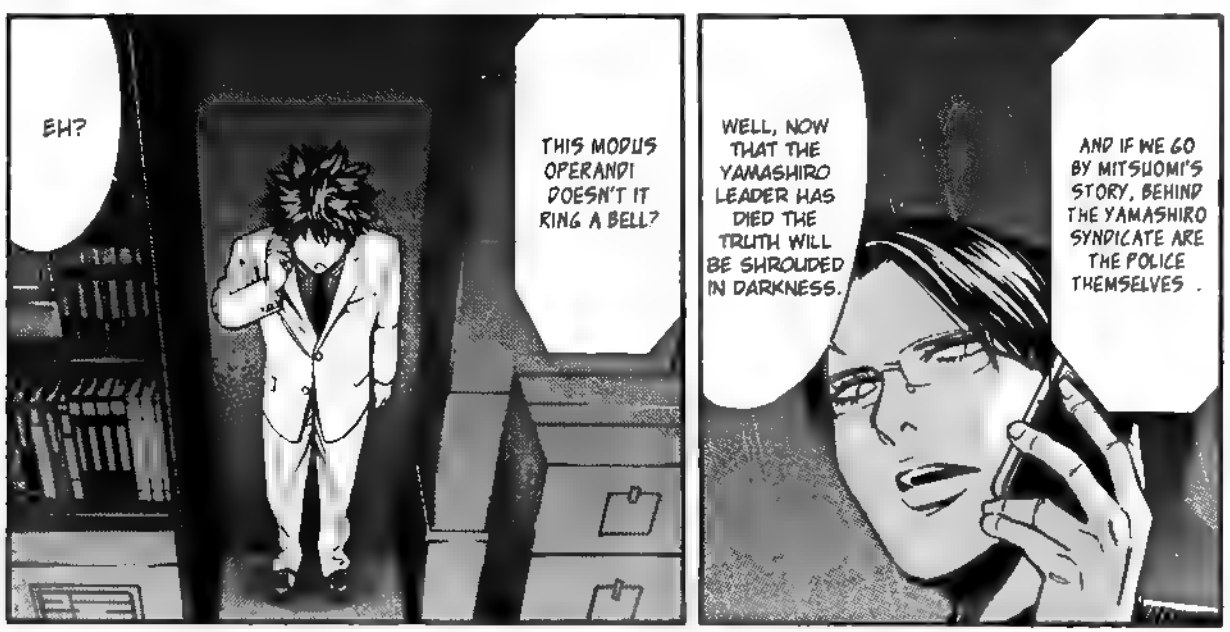
THE RESULT OF THE GRAPHOLOGICAL ANALYSIS ON THE SUICIDE NOTE FOUND IN THE SCENE STATES WITH MORE THAN 90% CONFIDENCE THAT IT WAS WRITTEN BY HIM.
IT WAS DOUBTLESSLY DEATH BY ASPHYXIATION CAUSED BY CARBON MONOXIDE.
THE CORPSE HAD A VIVID PINK COLOUR.


IT... IS OKAY TO TALK, NOW.
THE PREMISES SEARCH ON THE YAMASHIRO SYNDICATE'S MAIN HOUSE HAS JUST FINISHED.
TELL ME IN DETAIL THE SUMMARY OF THE FINDINGS ON THE SUICIDE OF THE YAMASHIRO LEADER.


"AS A CRIME SYNDICATE WHO BORE ENMITY AGAINST THE POLICE, WE HAVE PLOTTED THE SNIPING OF THE SUPERINTENDENT-GENERAL", SO IT WENT.
ITS CONTENTS AMOUNTED TO ONE THING ONLY.

THE OTHER ORGANISATION MEMBERS WERE BAFFLED. IT SEEMS THAT SOMEHOW THE CRIME WAS A PRIVATE DECISION OF THE LEADERS WHO DIED.
THE RIFLE USED IN THE CRIME WAS ALSO RETRIEVED FROM THE VILLA.

TO BEGIN WITH, IT'S DEFINITELY ODD THAT PEOPLE WHO WOULD BE SO BOLD TO COMMIT THAT KIND OF CRIME WOULD GET COLD FEET JUST BECAUSE OF THAT!
THE MOTIVES BEHIND THE SUICIDE HAVE NOT BEEN CLARIFIED
THE TOP BRASS' POINT OF VIEW IS THAT "THEY WERE TORMENTED BY THE FEAR OF BEING CAUGHT AND DECIDED TO PUT AN END TO THEIR LIVES AS A RESULT" THAT'S WHAT THEY SAID!


EH?
THIS MODUS OPERANDI DOESN'T IT RING A BELL?
WELL, NOW THAT THE YAMASHIRO LEADER HAS DIED THE TRUTH WILL BE SHROUDED IN DARKNESS.
AND IF WE GO BY MITSUOMI'S STORY, BEHIND THE YAMASHIRO SYNDICATE ARE THE POLICE THEMSELVES .

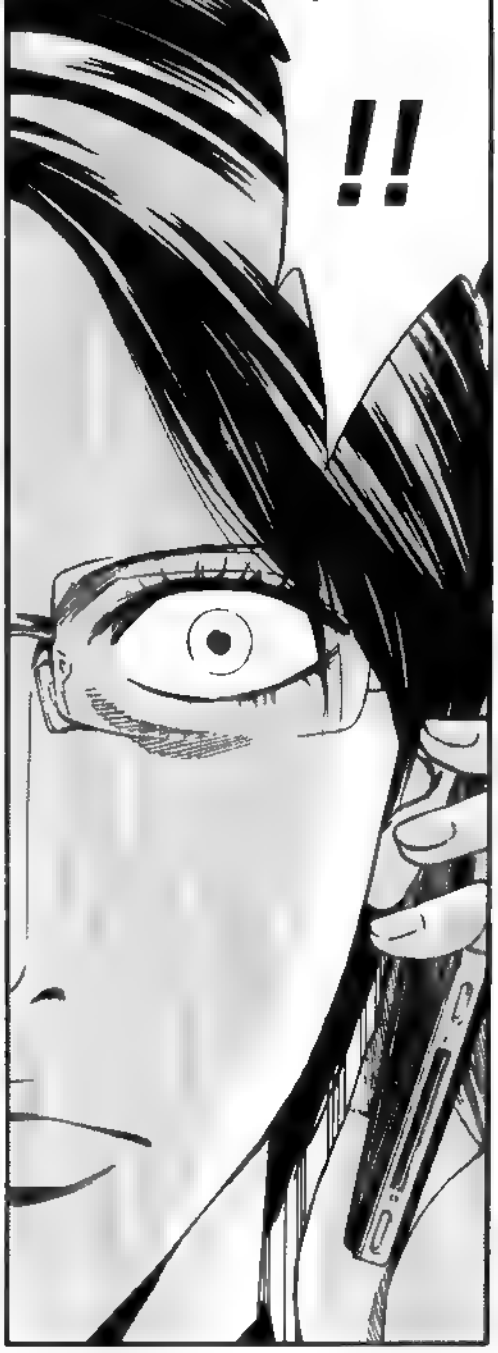
TS/N: Dead men tell no tales... Unless you're a coroner. Then the dead won't shut the fuck up.

"THE DEAD DON'T TALK" IS STANDARD PRACTICE AT ZERO. IN THE END, THEY SILENCED HIM TO MAKE SURE THAT ALL RESPONSIBILITY WOULD FALL ON HIS SHOULDERS.
THOSE GUYS PROPOSED SNIPING THE SUPERINTENDENT-GENERAL TO THE HEAD OF YAMASHIRO.
WE CONFIRMED THAT THE YAMASHIRO SYNDICATE AND THE LOT FROM ZERO ARE CONNECTED.

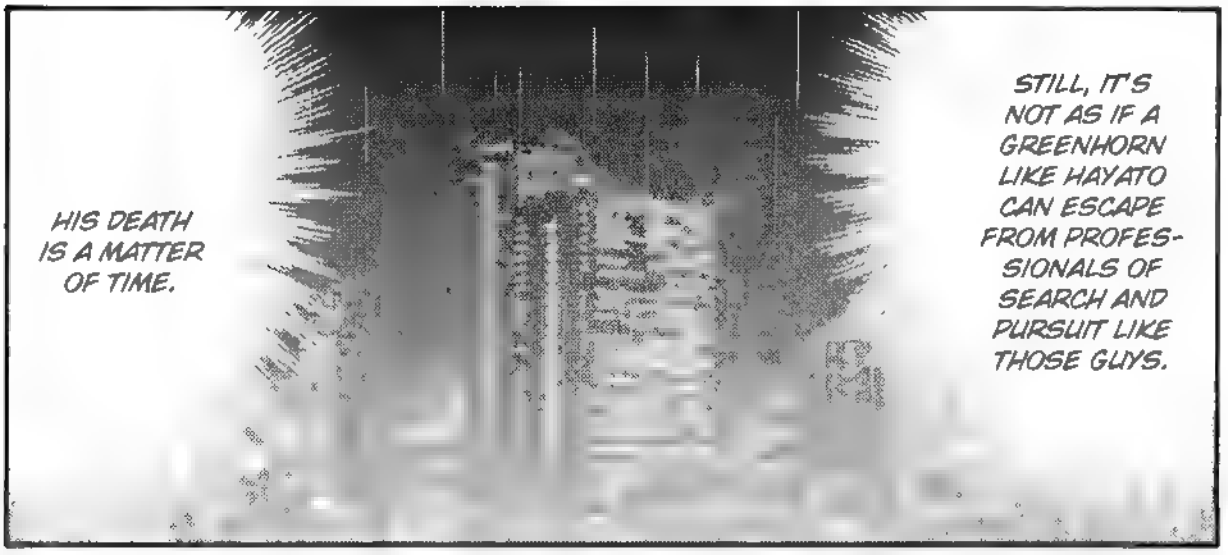
AH!
YEAH, THAT...
BUT IF THAT'S THE CASE, I WONDER WHAT WE MAKE OF MITSUOMI'S STORY ACCORDING TO WHICH THE TRUE CULPRIT IN THIS CASE IS FROM THE POLICE...
NOW YOU MENTION IT, THERE'S ONE MORE ISSUE IN THIS CASE. .
HM? WHAT IS IT?
FROM AMONG THE TOP BRASS OF YAMASHIRO, ONLY ONE PERSON WASN'T AT THE SUICIDE SCENE.
EVEN NOW HIS WHEREABOUTS ARE UNKNOWN.
SFX: slip

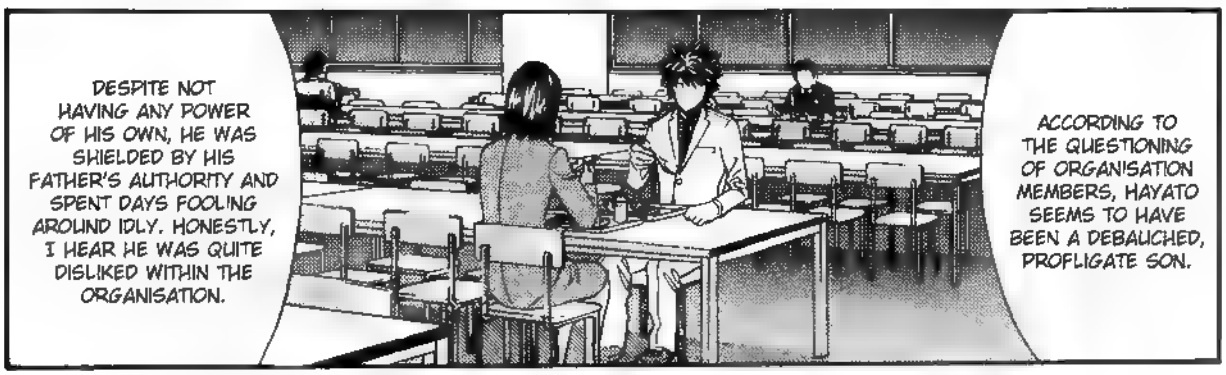
YAMASHIRO HAYATO...
THE YAMASHIRO LEADER'S BELOVED ONLY SON,

NO... HE IS PROBABLY STILL ALIVE.
IT CAN'T BE THAT PUBLIC SAFETY ALSO...
HE IS WANTED FOR QUESTIONING BY THE POLICE AS A POTENTIAL WITNESS, BUT...


!!

I'D SAY HE IS ON THE RUN, HIDING FROM ZERO.
AFTER ALL, IF THEY HAD KILLED HIM THEY WOULD IN ALL LIKELIHOOD HAVE HAD HIM BE FOUND TOGETHER WITH HIS FATHER.

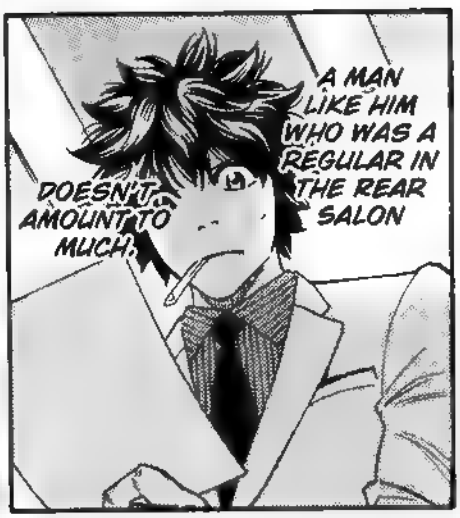

HIS DEATH IS A MATTER OF TIME.
STILL, IT'S NOT AS IF A GREENHORN LIKE HAYATO CAN ESCAPE FROM PROFESSIONALS OF SEARCH AND PURSUIT LIKE THOSE GUYS.


DESPITE NOT HAVING ANY POWER OF HIS OWN, HE WAS SHIELDED BY HIS FATHER'S AUTHORITY AND SPENT DAYS FOOLING AROUND IDLY. HONESTLY, I HEAR HE WAS QUITE DISLIKED WITHIN THE ORGANISATION.
ACCORDING TO THE QUESTIONING OF ORGANISATION MEMBERS, HAYATO SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN A DEBAUCHED, PROFLIGATE SON.

TS/N: Holy shit, two panels full of Hibino's face and her nose is present for both! Maybe somebody stopped being lazy.

NOT TURNING HIMSELF IN NOW HIS FATHER HAS DIED AND BEING ON THE RUN... WHAT IS HE THINKING, THAT STUPID KID!
WE DON'T KNOW YET WHETHER HAYATO TOOK PART IN THE SNIPING OF SUPERINTENDENT-GENERAL KITA-GAWA, BUT...

HIS FATHER MURDERED... AND HIMSELF DISLIKED BY THE ORGANIZATION...
AND NOW HIS FORMER FELLOWS FROM PUBLIC SAFETY ARE PROBABLY ALSO AFTER HIS NECK. A MISERABLE MAN... ISN'T HE?



SFX: step step

IT HAS BEEN A LONG TIME.
RYUZAKI-KUN, MIDUKI.

!
INDEED, IT HAS BEEN A LONG TIME, CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT HIBINO ..
IN...
I'LL BE THERE SOON.
HIBINO-SAN... AH...
ER...
THANKS FOR THE MEAL.
I'LL BE WAITING DOWNSTAIRS, RYUZAKI-SAN.
SFX: clatter!
SFX: clatter
AH... PERISH THE THOUGHT!! I AM NOTHING, NOTHING AT ALL!
Heroic tales, nonsense...
I HAVE HEARD QUITE A FEW TALES OF HEROISM ABOUT YOU.
HAVE YOU ALREADY GOTTEN USED TO WORKING IN THE FIRST DIVISION?
HIBINO-SAN AND BANDO-SAN SCOLD ME NON-STOP, EVERY DAY...
N-NO... SHE IS COLD TO ME ALL THE TIME... AHAHAHAHAHA...
I HAVE BEEN GIVEN THE COLD SHOULDER TOO, I SEE.

?
RETURN TO BEFORE? DO YOU REALLY THINK SO?
JUST A LITTLE MORE AND THE HUSTLE AND BUSTLE WILL SETTLE DOWN TOO, AND THINGS WILL RETURN TO THE WAY THEY WERE BEFORE...
AH! B-BUT THE CASE OF THE SNIPING OF THE SUPERINTEN-DENT-GENERAL IS SETTLED FOR NOW, WHAT A RELIEF, ISN'T IT...
IS DIVIDED INTO FACTIONS.
I SAID IT BEFORE, DIDN'T I, RYUZAKI-KUN? THE POLICE FORCE
CRACK
CRACK
CRACK

IT HAS BEEN A LONG TIME,
CRUNCH!
CHIEF SUPER-INTENDENT HIBINO.

WELL, WELL, WELL... I SEE YOU ARE IN VERY GOOD HEALTH AS USUAL,
DEPUTY SUPERINTEN-DENT-GENERAL HIJIRI.
THIS...
THIS PERSON IS THE DEPUTY SUPERIN-TENDENT-GENERAL...

WITHIN THE MPD, THE DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT-GENERAL FACTION HOLDS THE MOST POWER...
DON'T OPPOSE THE "DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT-GENERAL FACTION"...
WHICH REMINDS ME, BANDO-SAN'S WORDS WERE...

Y-YES, SIR!!
I AM ALSO HEADING THERE... YOU GO NOW!
AN EXTRA-ORDINARY INVESTIGATION MEETING IS GOING TO TAKE PLACE IN YOUR JURISDICTION SOON.

SFX: glare

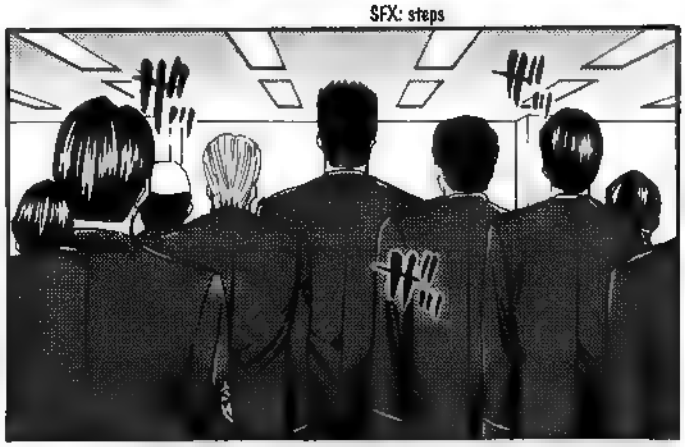
SFX. babble babble

I... I AM TANGENT, NO, SERGEANT RYUZAKI IKUO OF THE FIRST DIVISIONAL CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION BUREAU, ELEVENTH TEAM, SIR!
AND YOU, BASTARD, ARE...?

SFX. step step step

SFX. turn

SFX: steps



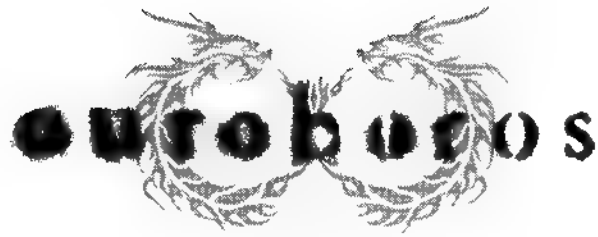
TO FERRET OUT HAYATO QUICKLY, AS THINGS GO...

THOSE GUYS FROM ZERO WILL DEFINITELY SHOW THEMSELVES!!

WE'RE GOING TO SETTLE ACCOUNTS SOON, ZERO!!

DEPUTY
SUPERINTENDENT-GENERAL

SFX: sound of rain
I HAVE A FEELING I'VE SEEN HIM SOMEWHERE BEFORE...
THAT KID...



Next issue will be ———

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Iwaya Akira

Inoue Minako

Miura Masahiro

Ikeda Tetsuya

Color
Aoshika Yukari

次巻予告

ゴルゴ13

公安〈ゼロ〉

VS段野竜哉

ついに直接対決へ!!!

警視総監狙撃事件の
鍵を握る逃亡者・山城隼人。
彼を追うイクオと竜哉の前に、
隼人の命を狙うゼロの二人が立ちふさがる!
事件の真相を巡り、
因縁の対決の幕が開ける

白熱の第⑪巻 今冬発売予定

Current status of crimes committed by foreigners in Japan

In the 21st year of the Heisei Era*, crimes committed by foreigners in Japan resulted in 27,836 arrests involving 13,257 people.

If one contrasts these numbers to the comparatively tranquil transitional years of the Heisei Era, these numbers represent a 4.8-fold increase in cases and a 2.9-fold increase in people.

With these developments as background, there has been a progressive globalisation of crime in which organisations with activities that are global in scale have penetrated Japan and their membership has become multinational.

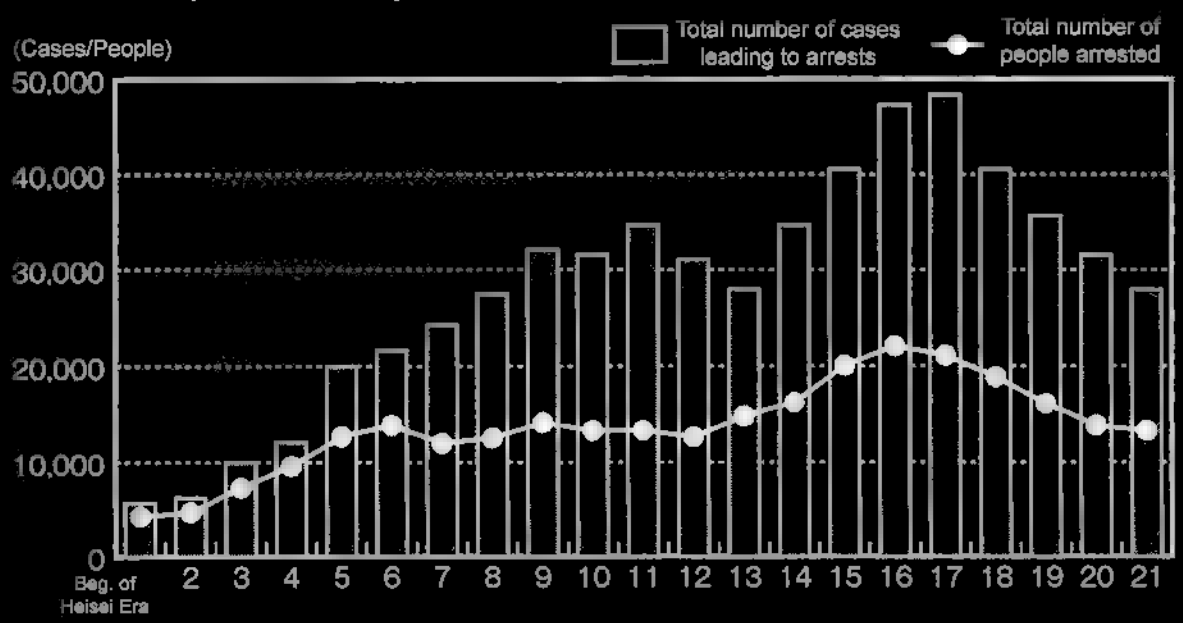
Furthermore, foreigner-related criminality is also fostered by an infrastructure (note 1) of illegal money remittances via underground banking, counterfeit marriages and adoptions, forgery of passports and foreigner registration ID cards and the promotion of unauthorised labour.

Note 1: Promotion of illegal entry and residence in the country is the first step in the facilitation of repeated crime** by foreigners in Japan.

*: The 21st year of the Heisei Era is 2007.

**: By "repeated crime" I tried to capture the emphasis laid in the original on the fact that the criminals are repeated offenders, as opposed to sporadic, non-systematic, small-timers.

Evolution of foreigner-committed crimes in Japan, measured by arrests



Drug-related crime by foreigners in Japan

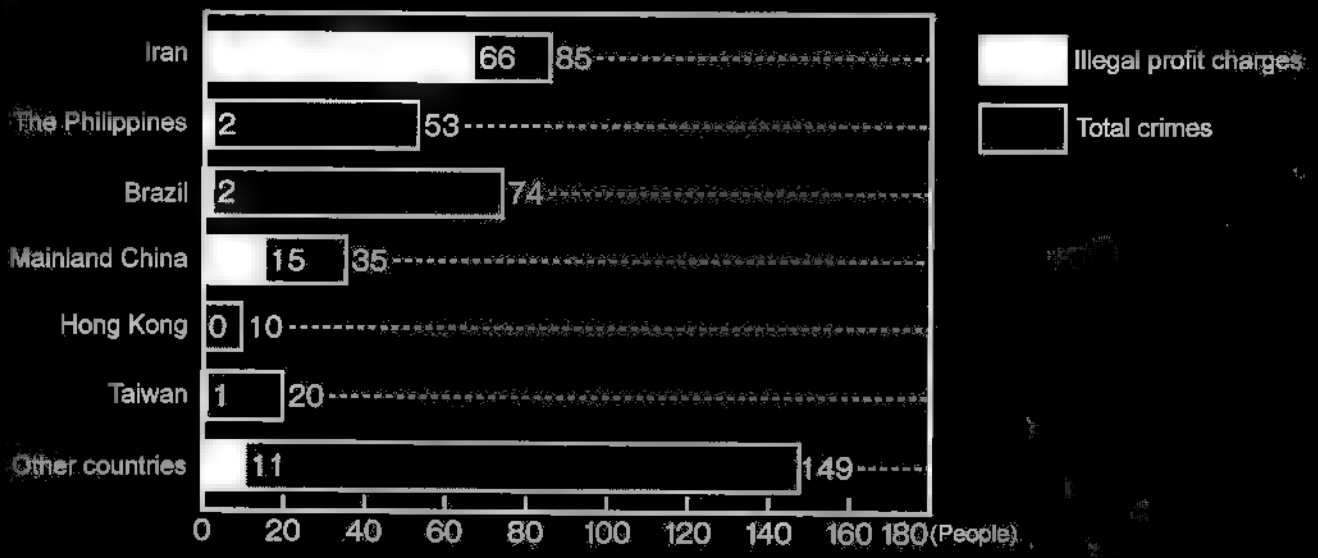
In the 21st year of the Heisei Era, of the foreigners in Japan arrested for drug-related crimes, 73.8% were arrested for involvement with stimulants.

If these are broken down by nationality, Iran, the Philippines and Brazil each account for a high proportion, and combined correspond to 43.8% of the total.

Iranians have the highest arrest rates accounting for 77.6% of the illegal asset generation (note 2). If we compare these numbers to the size of the other national communities, the proportion is strikingly high, which shows how deep the current involvement of Iranians in the smuggling of stimulant drugs is.

Note 2: including material wealth, profit allocation and profit transferences.

Foreigners in Japan apprehended on stimulant-related charges, by nationality



Kantō Abiko Group

General headquarters in Tōkyō. A broad-area designated crime syndicate with four thousand members. If associated members are counted, the number rises to approximately ten thousand. Formed in 1955 under the leadership of the current Head, Abiko Shigeru*, reached this status without ever finding a replacement to his exceptional leadership skill. However, Leader Shigeru being severely afflicted by disabling depression, his third and current legal wife Kirino, a sharp and able person who is widely feared, is the de facto power holder in the organisation. Incidentally, Kirino is a member of the "Gold Watch Organisation".

*:The name was introduced without furigana, so "Shigeru" is my arbitrary choice that can be proved wrong later. "Yon", "Sakai" and "Hisashi" are possible alternatives.

Kantō Abiko Group,
Wife of the Leader
Abiko Kirino (de facto power holder).

Kantō Abiko Group Leader
Abiko Shigeru

Second-tier group,
Danno Family Leader
Danno Tatsuya

Third-tier group, Matsuo
Brigade Young Leader
Fukamachi Reijirō

Yamashirō Syndicate

The largest broad-area designated crime syndicate in Kantō, headquartered in Kanagawa. Ten thousand members and rumoured to have a further five thousand associated members, but this number lacks confirmation. It is the strongest group in Kantō. Working as a customary hereditary system, in 1982 the current Leader, Yamashirō Shigeyoshi, succeeded his father to become the Third Head. However, the late-born heir Hayato does not have the calibre required of a Leader, and consequently cooperation between fellow direct followers within the organisation is virtually non-existent. The Leader Yamashirō Shigeyoshi is rumoured to have strived for the continued existence of his organisation by cultivating intimate rear-channel ties with the upper echelons of the police.

Yamashirō Syndicate
Third Leader
Yamashirō Shigeyoshi

Prodigal Heir to the
Yamashirō Leader
Yamashirō Hayato

BUNCH COMICS

ウロボロス―警察ヲ裁クハ我ニアリ― ⑩

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